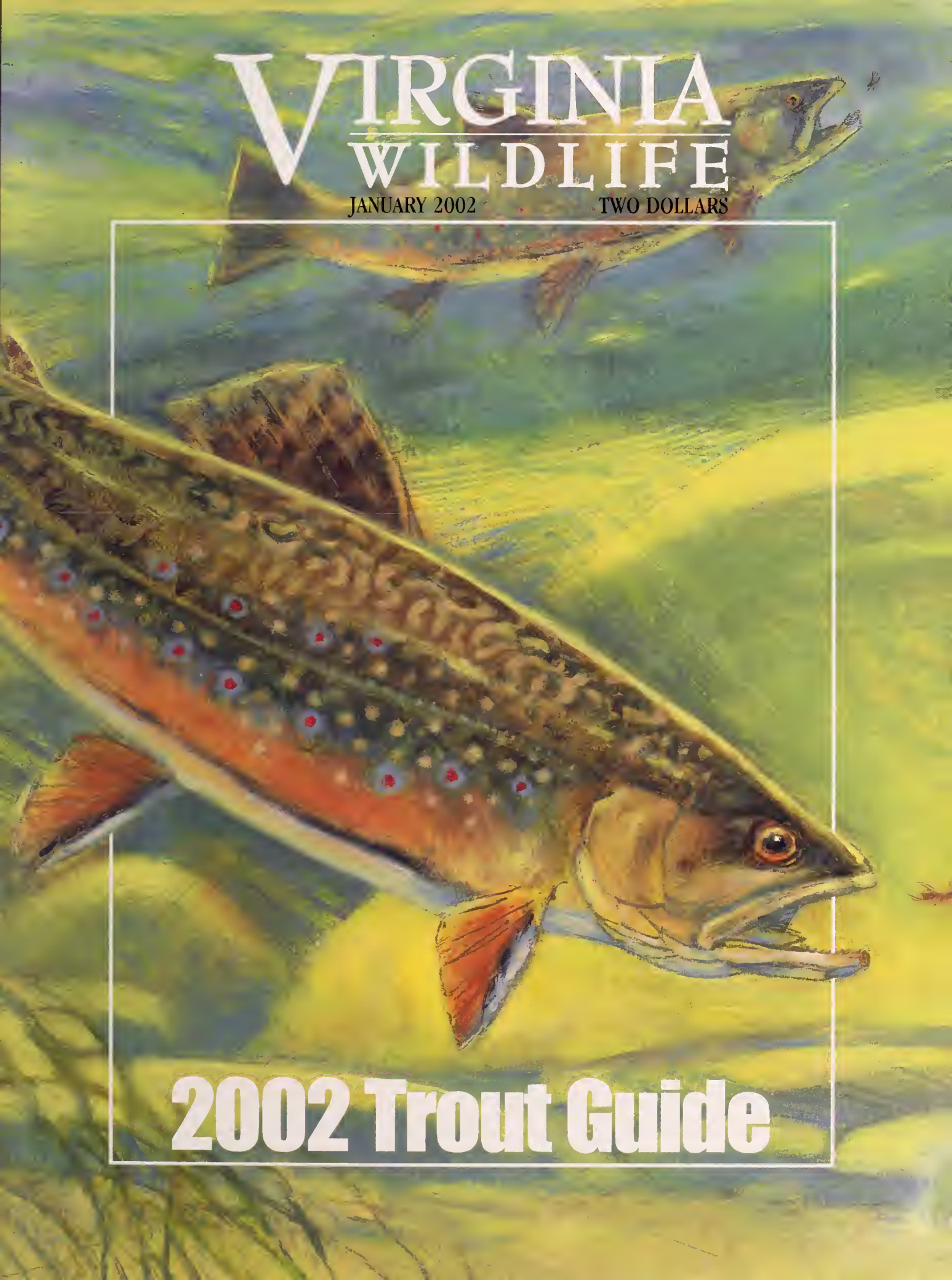
VIRGINIA
WILDLIFE
JANUARY 2002 TWO DOLLARS



2002 Trout Guide

Director's Column

William L. Woodfin, Jr

What better way to start off the new year than with the special *Virginia Wildlife*, 2002 Trout Guide and a trip down to my local outdoor store to purchase my new 2002 fishing license. Since initiating a year-round trout fishing season back in 1995, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) has continued to provide a great recreational opportunity for all Virginians and out-of-state anglers. Response to the Department's trout stocking information telephone number, 1-804-525-FISH, has remained strong and is praised by anglers for providing timely and useful information. And just as a reminder, the information on this number is updated daily during the trout stocking season.

As the new year begins, I would like to take a few minutes to remind everyone about the mission of this agency, which is printed at the bottom of this page each month. It states that VDGIF is to manage all of Virginia's wildlife and fish species, to provide outdoor recreation, and to promote safety for all who enjoy boating, hunting, and fishing. This mission requires a lot of hard work from all the staff here at the Department, and their dedication and constant striving for excellence is evident.

I am always very pleased to call attention to our staff folks who have been recognized in some way each year. While you may recognize Sergeant Ron Henry as our 2001 Game Warden of the Year, he also received a 2001 National Association of Police Organizations TOP COP Honorable Mention Award. Ron was recognized for his key role in the arrest of a murder suspect. He was also a recipient of the Commonwealth Valor Award for 2001. Ron truly does represent the kind of professional conduct that our Law Enforcement officers are known for.

Also last year, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies recognized Dave Steffen for his outstanding accomplishments in conservation and wildlife management, naming him Wildlife Biologist of the Year 2001. Dave's greatest contribution to wildlife management in Virginia has been his direction and implementation of the comprehensive research projects for wild turkey, black bear, and ruffed grouse.

The Department's outreach efforts, which showcase the importance of Virginia's wildlife and other natural resources, earned a couple of distinctions this past year. Two of our educational videos received Telly Awards, a national competition for non-network productions. *Virginia Wildlife* magazine received the June Sekoll Media Award from the Virginia Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society. The award is given to an individual or group that produces works which significantly increases public understanding and advocates the protection, enhancement and wise use of soil, water and natural resources.

The hard work doesn't stop there. The Department continues its efforts in the restoration

of the American shad and we have been seeing progress as hatchery-reared shad are beginning to return to Virginia's rivers. We look forward to greater numbers returning this spring. The Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail is moving forward, creating more opportunities for Virginians and visitors to enjoy our bounty of wildlife and diverse habitat. This past year saw much progress with the coastal phase of the Trail, further development in the western portion and work underway for the central portion.

As you can tell, I am extremely proud of our accomplishments of 2001 and my hopes are high as we begin anew in 2002. But it is only through your support, as well as the support of numerous clubs, organizations, associations, corporate and government partners, that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries can continue to make strides in meeting our mission. We appreciate all that you do on behalf of our agency and the Commonwealth's wildlife resources.

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VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

Cover: As well as being the state fish, the brook trout *(Salvelinus fontinalis)* is the only trout species that is native to Virginia. Illustration by Tom Hale.

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Like a fast moving stream, so goes the journey of life, unless you take the time to reflect on it's simple pleasures.

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Dedicated to the Conservation of Virginia's Wildlife and Natural Resources

One M

story & photos
by King Montgomery

The cool water pressed against my hip boots, creating a feeling that can only be understood by someone who has waded with legs encased in rubber in a fast-flowing stream or river. There is something about stepping into the water, entering the liquid world where fish live, strange and foreign, yet somehow refreshingly familiar and not at all unfriendly. We are, after all, creatures of the water.

As a child I almost drowned; a heavy plaster cast on my broken arm pulling me down after I slipped off the bank, while watching giant carp slowly move along the bottom in the clear water. My last thoughts were about the fish: will they bother me now that I've entered their world? Breathing water, I found, was not all that unpleasant. I looked up through the shimmering, soothing water, and the flickering blue

sky slowly turned dark as I went to sleep.

Some years later, the water again licked at my boots, moving the loose bottom gravel—sort of like walking on marbles. I planted my feet firmly and reminded myself to wade no deeper. I already survived one water encounter of the near-death kind, and I didn't want history to repeat itself, particularly since there was no one around to pull me out this time.

The in-line spinner was a cheap knock-off of a Mepps and it swung in the current as I slowly turned the reel handle. The flashing lure stopped abruptly and I set the hook. A silver torpedo broke the water and headed skyward to join the rainbow that it mirrors. The waning sun casually threw broken shafts of light across the water as it journeyed slowly over the rocky, fir-covered mountains. Dark soon, I thought, and I'll have to hike out of the steep river gorge in the blackness, but first there is this magnificent steelhead to contend with. More leaps and powerful up and downstream runs, and the fish tires. I lead her to the sand and pebble shore and beached her in a few inches of water. The brilliant radiance of the rainbow trout was not lost in the gloaming.

One more cast, I thought. I knew the game trail up the steep cliff, and in the exuberance of youth, the combination of dark, cold, and steep did not seem to matter much. The spinner stopped at about the same spot as on the previous cast, and another beautiful steelhead was eventually slid gently to the shore. Gee, I thought, I still have time for one more cast. It was dark now, the brilliant light of the early stars replacing the sun. I use a Zippo lighter, you remember the one that would burn the skin through your front pocket if you filled it too full of fluid, to illuminate this last fish of the day. It is always good to end an angling day with a fish. School tomorrow and it seems like I can't shake those miserable eight o'clock classes.

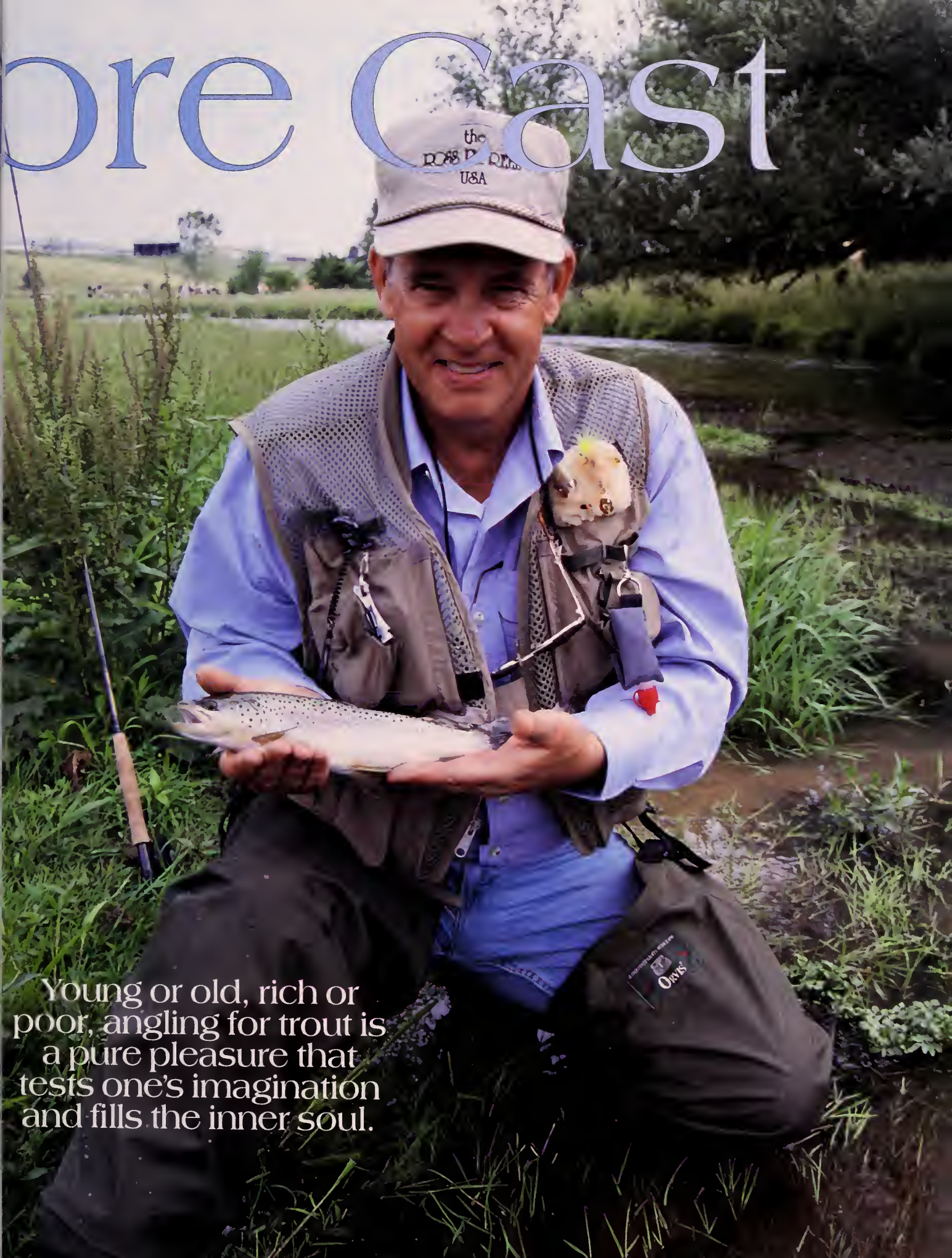
Thirty-something years later and I'm still getting a kick out of standing in cold running water. Neoprene waders, a warm synthetic cocoon, replaced the old rubber hip boots, but the sensation of the pulsing water is the same, only now it's much more familiar. Getting toward sunset and I gaze through the bare trees at the modest embankment that leads to the road and my fishing truck. Momentary thoughts of a time long ago and miles away flow gently through my mind like a stream of reflection, and I smile at the exuberance of age. What-the-heck, one more cast!

The fly rod is now my instrument of choice, replacing the fiberglass spinning rods of high school and college days, and now it sends the beadhead Prince nymph across and upstream to the head of the eddying current along the far bank. The nymph stops on its course, and the rainbow shakes its head as it jumps in the failing light. It is not the wild steelhead of my youth, but rather a distant cousin born and raised in a hatchery and stocked several years ago. As I lead it to the net, I can't help thinking that this fish, though spirited and pretty, is the price we pay for progress, and that our quest for a better, easier, and more comfortable life, has all but destroyed the places where wild, native trout live. But this little fish, better than nothing, is almost all we have left.

Just as the hatchery rainbow is to the wild steelhead, I am not who I was when I climbed out of the gorge of the Trinity River in the dark those many years ago. But even with a bullet-riddled leg, from a war that wasn't popular, and despite the lingering effects of two recent major back-to-back cancer surgeries, I knew I could make it up the modest embankment to the road in the dark. I guess I haven't changed that much. My past carries along on its journey through time, and it still lives in me in the present. And I know it will extend to the future, however long that might be. I check the fly in the grayness, thankful for bifocals, and for trout. One more cast.... □

King Montgomery is a retired U.S. Army officer and a frequent contributor to Virginia Wildlife.

ore Cast



Young or old, rich or poor, angling for trout is a pure pleasure that tests one's imagination and fills the inner soul.

200

Tom Hale

2 Trout Guide

by Larry Mohn
VDGIF Fisheries Regional Manager

Introduction

Virginia contains over 2800 miles of trout streams, in addition to numerous ponds, small lakes, and reservoirs. The total includes over 2300 miles of wild trout streams and about 600 miles of water inhabited with stocked trout. Virginia's diversified trout habitat offers a wide range of trout fishing opportunities.

Virginia's warm climate and topography generally limit trout habitat to the western portion of the state. The Blue Ridge and Allegheny mountains provide the elevation to maintain low water temperatures year-round, while the valley between these ranges contains the unique limestone formations necessary to produce highly productive spring creeks.

Trout management in Virginia consists of three basic programs. The *catchable trout stocking program* is the best known and most popular. Such waters are stocked from October through May with catchable-sized trout. See the following *Trout Stocking Plan* on pages 12-13 for the streams and lakes stocked and their stocking schedule.

The *wild trout program* includes the management of reproducing populations of brook, rainbow, and brown trout. Efforts are directed primarily at habitat preservation and proper regulation for protection of spawning stocks.

The *fingerling trout stocking program* involves stocking sublegal trout into waters that have cold summer water temperatures and a good food source. This is the smallest of the three programs but has been the fastest growing in recent years. Many of our newer, high quality trout fishing areas fall under this program.

Restrictions have been applied to certain wild trout waters, as well as several types of stocked trout streams, to provide anglers with the opportunity to catch more and larger trout throughout the fishing season. These special regulation areas include some of the state's best trout waters and are described in detail in this guide.

The trout season is open year-round in Virginia. Fishing success for both wild and stocked trout should be very high through the spring, fall, and mild winter periods. From June through September, normally low stream flows and warming water temperatures make trout fishing more difficult. However, experienced trout anglers can find good trout fishing opportunities throughout the year.

All stocked, special regulation, and larger wild trout waters are featured on the five maps beginning on page 24 in this special issue.

New For 2002

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) only considers fish regulation changes every other year, as a result, no new regulations go into effect in 2002. The only changes to this year's program involve upgrading and expanding some of the catchable trout waters.

Jennings Creek in Botetourt County, Liberty Lake in Bedford

County and Thompson Lake in Fauquier County have all been upgraded from Category B to Category A waters. Lake Tams in Staunton has been upgraded from Category C to Category B. These upgrades will result in more frequent stockings. In addition, over a mile of additional water has been added to lower Hawksbill Creek in Page County.

The Heritage Day program was added last year. See page 10 for details. The Middle Fork Holston River in Marion was added to the program at the last minute last year and appears on the Trout Guide listing for the first time this year.

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Catchable Trout Stocking Program

As in most states, put-and-take trout fishing draws the most interest and attention in Virginia, probably because of the availability of catchable-sized trout and ease of capture. Virginia's catchable program is supported by hatcheries located at Marion, Paint Bank, and Wytheville. Three additional rearing facilities are located at Marion, Williamsville, and Montebello.

Trout eggs are collected from large brood stock, in early fall at the hatcheries, and placed in incubator trays which maintain an even flow of well-oxygenated water through the eggs. Once the embryo is developed, trays must be constantly cleaned and dead eggs removed to control disease. After 25–30 days the trout begin to hatch. The small "fry," as they are called, remain attached to their egg sacs for about 14 days, and draw their food from it. The fry are kept indoors in small troughs until their sacs are absorbed and they begin taking small pelleted food. When they reach a suitable fingerling stage (2–3 inches) they are transported to rearing facilities where they are placed in raceways.

The fish are fed several times daily for at least a year until they reach catchable size (9–11 inches). During this rearing period, it is necessary to clean raceways daily to control disease and occasionally grade fish to ensure that the larger trout will not eat smaller ones.

The program is covered primarily from the sale of trout licenses. In addition to a valid state fishing license, a trout license is required to legally fish in designated stocked trout waters. Annual output from the program is approximately 1,250,000 catchable trout, in addition to variable numbers of fingerling and subcatchable trout used in other programs.

By January 1, most streams on the stocking list will have already received at least one stocking and will continue to be stocked through spring. Stockings will be discontinued by the end of May and will resume after October 1. Streams and lakes will be stocked at various intervals, depending on their potential to hold trout during the late spring and early fall. Fishermen should find that most streams have good numbers of trout throughout the stocking season.

Waters to be stocked are listed by county in the *Trout Stocking Plan* (see pages 12–13). The plan indicates the frequency of stocking and the specific stocking periods for each stream. Call your local VDGIF office for more information. For daily trout stocking updates during stocking season, call 1-804-525-FISH (3474) or check our Web site at www.dgif.state.va.us.

Stocked trout streams are marked with appropriate signs, which identify the portion of stream stocked. Marked sections are open to public fishing, in accordance with agreements between the Department and private landowners. This is the only case where anglers are not required to have landowner permission before fishing on private water.

Urban Fishing

The Department's Urban Fishing Program was launched in December 1993. This program is designed to provide high-quality fishing opportunities for anglers in urban and suburban areas. Currently, the program includes the stocking of six lakes: Cook Lake (Cameron Run Regional Park) in Alexandria, Locust Shade Pond in Prince William County, Dorey Park Lake in Henrico County, Shields Lake (Byrd Park) in the city of Richmond, Lake Biggins (Huntington Park) in Newport News, and Northwest River Park in Chesapeake. Catchable trout are stocked at all sites from November through April, and channel catfish are stocked during the warm weather months at Locust Shade, Dorey, and Byrd. This program is co-sponsored by the recreation department in each locality.

Special Regulations

Fee Fishing Areas

The fee fishing areas offer put-and-take trout fishing with the added advantage that trout are stocked several times weekly throughout the season. The fee fishing program operates from the first Saturday in April through September at Clinch Mountain and Crooked Creek and from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 16 through October 31 at Douthat. For those anglers who miss the opening day of trout season, the fee fishing areas

still provide this opportunity on the first Saturday in April when they open at 9:00 a.m. During the fee fishing season, a daily permit is required in addition to a valid Virginia fishing license. After the fee fishing season, these areas revert to designated stocked trout waters and a trout license is required instead of the daily permit. The creel limit at these areas is 6 fish per day.

Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area

The Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area is located in southwest Virginia, about 7 miles west of Saltville. The area consists of approximately 7 miles of Big Tumbling Creek and its two major tributaries, Briar Cove Creek and Laurel Bed Creek. Big Tumbling Creek is a large, steep gradient stream with numerous small waterfalls and large, deep rocky pools. The two tributaries are much smaller with a more moderate gradient. Laurel Bed Lake is no longer part of the fee fishing program and does not require the daily permit. However, the lake continues to be managed for trout as well as for flow augmentation for Big Tumbling Creek. Trout are stocked daily (except Sunday) throughout the fee period in the streams, and fishing begins at 6 a.m. daily, except for opening day. Camping is available at the area and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries owns and manages the surrounding land.

Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area

Crooked Creek is located in Carroll County, 5 miles east of Galax. The area consists of 5 miles of stream, which is stocked. In addition, approximately 2 miles of the stream is managed as a wild trout fishery. Crooked Creek is a wide, fairly low gradient stream with a gravel bottom. The surrounding land is mixed fields and woodlots, not characteristic of the more common mountain stream drainages. Fishing must cease at 7 p.m. to allow for restocking. No camping facilities are available at Crooked Creek, but private facilities are available nearby.

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Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area

The Douthat Fee Fishing Area was expanded several years ago to include about 4 miles of Wilson Creek along with the stocking of 60-acre Douthat Lake. This fee fishing area has two features designed to encourage children to participate . A small "children-only" area has been established on Wilson Creek, just below the dam. In addition, children 12 years of age and under can fish without a permit throughout the fee-fishing area as long as they are accompanied by a permitted adult and their combined creel does not exceed that of the adult. The lake provides fishing for bass, bluegill, crappie, pickerel, and catfish, in addition to trout, which are stocked twice weekly. During most summer months, conditions become unfavorable for trout stocking. Therefore, at Douthat, the fee fishing season now runs from the first Saturday in April through June 15 and from September 16 through October 31. From June 16 through September 15, no trout will be stocked and no daily fee or trout license is required although trout fishing opportunities will remain for trout still present in the lake from previous stockings. The lake, stream, and surrounding land are located within Douthat State Park and are administered by the Virginia Division of Parks. Available recreation includes camping, hiking, and swimming in addition to fishing. Cabins are also available for rent if application is made well in advance. The park is located in a beautiful mountain setting with most of the surrounding land within the George Washington National Forest.

Delayed Harvest Trout Streams

This program incorporates aspects of both catch-and-release and put-and-take trout fishing. Catchable-sized trout are stocked in the fall, winter, and spring. From October 1 through the following May 31, only artificial lures may be used and all fish must be returned unharmed. From June 1 through September 30, general trout regulations are in effect and trout may be creeled. A trout license is required to fish these waters from October 1 through June 15.

Accotink Creek (Fairfax County)

The delayed harvest section of Accotink Creek extends from Route 236 (Little River Turnpike) downstream 1.9 miles to Route 620 (Braddock Road). This stream section is bound by a Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) floodplain park that belies the stream's urban setting (the upper boundary is adjacent to the

Capital Beltway). The stream contains numerous riffle-run-pool sequences with good holding pools, and it has an abundance of large woody debris. Primary access is via the FCPA Wakefield Park facility off Braddock Road.

Back Creek (Bath County)

The rugged mountains that form the backdrop to the Back Creek special regulation area are one of the area's most appealing features. The stream is about 25 feet in width with moderate gradient and excellent fly-fishing opportunities. The stream has been extensively reconstructed to improve trout habitat by Dominion Virginia Power, who constructed a pump storage facility just upstream. The land adjacent to this stream section is managed for recreation by Dominion Virginia Power. In addition to trout fishing, the area offers a campground, picnic pavilion, outdoor games, and two warmwater lakes for fishing and swimming. Take Route 39 west from Warm Springs to Mountain Grove, then right on Route 600 for 6 miles.

Chestnut Creek (Carroll County)

Chestnut Creek was established as a delayed harvest water for 2001. The managed section begins at Route 793 north of Galax and extends downstream 2.3 miles to the confluence with the New River. The stream parallels the New River Trail State Park, which offers a unique hiking or biking opportunity to access the many rock ledges and large pools common in this reach of stream. Parking is limited, but available at the Route 793 bridge. In addition to the state park, many private landowners have made this program possible and anglers should be sure to respect adjoining private property.

Holliday Creek (Appomattox/Buckingham Counties)

The Holliday Creek delayed harvest section is located completely within the Appomattox/Buckingham State Forest. The 2.8 mile section stretches from just above Holliday Lake upstream to Route 640. The stream is approximately 15–25 feet in width and runs through a remote, heavily wooded section of forest that can be accessed by taking Route 24 north out of Appomattox to Route 626. Anglers should turn onto Routes 640 or 614 to access a series of foot trails to the stream that have been developed by the Forestry Department. Despite the fact that this stream is located in the piedmont of Virginia, anglers will be surprised by the quality of the fishing experience available.

North Fork of Pound River and Pound River (Wise County)

The delayed harvest section begins at the base of the North Fork of Pound Dam and extends downstream about 2 miles to the confluence of Indian Creek. Above Route 23, the North Fork of the Pound River is a medium-sized stream with shallow runs and riffles flowing through fields and woodlots. Downstream of Route 23 the river passes through the town of Pound, gaining size and flow, and taking on a more urban setting. Access is available at the North Fork of Pound Dam, and at parking lots within the town of Pound. This stream provides high catch rates and good fishing opportunities from October through early summer.

North River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section of the North River extends from the base of Elkhorn Dam downstream 1.5 miles to the head of the Staunton City Reservoir. This is a remote section of stream that can only be reached by foot trail. Access is available by parking at Elkhorn Lake and following the trail along the lake to the spillway. This area provides a remote, scenic fishing opportunity during the winter and spring months. Stream flow in the North River is usually low during summer and fall, and the fall trout stocking is often delayed until adequate water flow is available.

Trout Heritage Waters for 2002

The following waters will be stocked either the evening of April 5 or the morning of April 6.

Beartree Lake	Washington County
Bark Camp Lake	Scott County
Clinch Mountain Fee Fishing Area*	Washington County
Cripple Creek (Ravens Cliff)	Wythe County
Crooked Creek Fee Fishing Area*	Carroll County
Douthat Lake Fee Fishing Area*	Bath County
Jennings Creek	Botetourt County
Lake Witten	Tazewell County
Liberty Lake	Bedford County
Lincolnshire Lake	Tazewell County
Middle Fork Holston River	Smyth County
Passage Creek	Shenandoah County
Pedlar River (upper)	Amherst County
Rose River	Madison County
Tinker Creek	Roanoke County

* The fee fishing areas are closed to angling from April 1–5. On April 6 fishing can begin at 9:00 a.m. On other Heritage Waters, angling may begin at 5:00 a.m.

Passage Creek (Warren County)

The delayed harvest section of Passage Creek extends from the Warren County line downstream approximately 1 mile through the Department's Front Royal Fish Hatchery. This section of stream is immediately downstream of the area that has historically been stocked under the put-and-take program. Parking is available on Forest Service lands adjacent to Route 678 or on Department lands adjacent to Route 613.

Pedlar River (Amherst County)

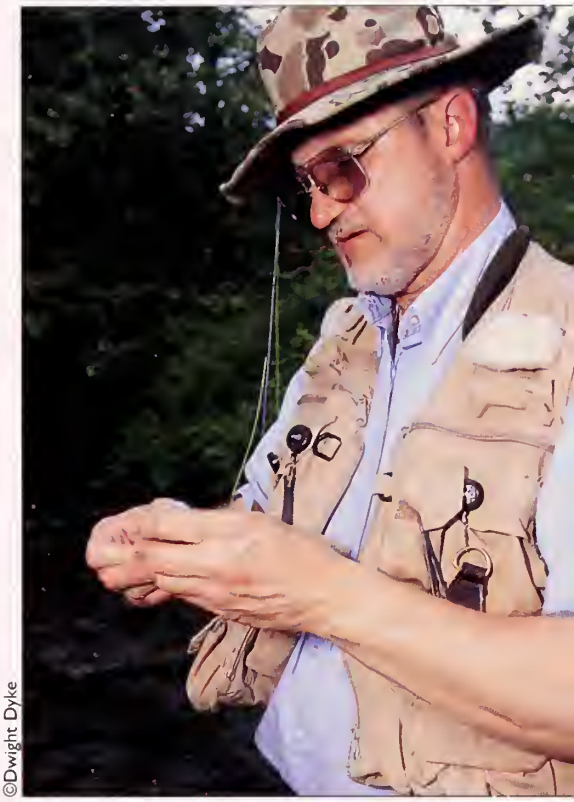
The Pedlar River delayed harvest section is 2.7 miles in length and is located below the Lynchburg City Reservoir in the George Washington National Forest, southeast of Buena Vista. Anglers should be prepared for a considerable walk to the stream in steep terrain. The stream contains abundant deep pool and run habitat during the winter, spring, and early summer months and provides great fly fishing opportunities. Water levels during the late summer and fall months can be low due to a lack of water leaving the reservoir. The Forest Service and the Department have cooperated in the development of three access sites to the river located along FS 39 off Route 607.

Roanoke River (Roanoke County)

The Roanoke River delayed harvest section is located within Green Hill Park in Roanoke County and was established on January 1, 2001. The section is easily found off Route 11/460 west of Salem and stretches from the Route 760 Bridge (Diuguids Lane) upstream 1 mile to a sign posted at the upper end of the park. It is best to access the stream from the park side of the stream, and anglers are encouraged to use the parking areas provided. Located in an urban setting, the stream section provides excellent big stream fishing in a pleasant environment. The stream is approximately 50–75 feet in width and has ample riffle/run habitat for wade fishing, as well as pool habitat for anglers who prefer bank fishing. In addition to trout fishing, the park offers picnic facilities and other recreational opportunities for family activities.

South River (Augusta County)

The delayed harvest section extends from the Second Street bridge in Waynesboro upstream 2.4 miles to the base of Rife Loth Dam. This stream section runs through the city of Waynesboro and is in an urban setting. South River is a relatively large, wide stream with shallow runs and riffles. The stream provides outstanding fly-fishing opportunities because of its size and its abundance of aquatic insects. The stream is open to fishing year-round and provides excellent winter fishing.



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Catchable Trout Stocking Plan

Very few changes have occurred within the catchable trout program for 2002. The good news is that there have been no losses of water to the program. However, there has been one addition, an additional 1 mile section of Hawksbill Creek near Luray in Page County will be stocked. The new stream section extends downstream from the lower end of the old section. This area has some excellent habitat, good access, and plenty of parking. Fishermen will need to walk some distance to reach a portion of this new stocked section.

Also, on the positive side, a number of popular waters have been upgraded. Jennings Creek in Botetourt County, Liberty Lake in Bedford County, and Thompson Lake in Fauquier County have all been changed from Category B to Category A waters. This means that each will receive four additional stockings for the year. In addition, Lake Tams in the city of Staunton has been upgraded from a Category C to Category B, resulting in two additional stockings for that lake.

Finally, a reminder about Trout Heritage Day. This program was added last year for those anglers who enjoyed and missed the old opening day. Selected waters are stocked for the first Saturday in April to create an announced stocking event. Most anglers who took advantage of this program last year indicated that they appreciated this opportunity. The Heritage Day waters for 2002 are listed on page 10. These streams and lakes will be stocked either late Friday evening or early Saturday morning. Last year biologists conducted creel surveys on most of these waters. It was interesting to note that, despite crowds that were much larger than the truck-following crowd, less than 10 percent of the trout stocked for this event were creeled that day. Trout anglers should take note of these results—most trout are still available long after the crowds have left.

Catchable Trou

These waters require a trout license betwee

ALBEMARLE COUNTY		
Mint Springs Lake (Upper)	B	
Mint Springs Lake (Middle)	B	
Moormans River (N. Fork)	B	(NSF)
Moormans River (S. Fork)	B	(NSF)
Sugar Hollow Reservoir	A	
ALEXANDRIA CITY		
Cook Lake	U	
ALLEGHANY COUNTY		
Clifton Forge Reservoir*	A	
Jerrys Run*	C	
Pounding Mill Creek*	B	
Smith Creek*	C	(NSF)
AMHERST COUNTY		
Davis Mill Creek*	C	
Little Irish Creek*	C	(NSF)
Pedlar River (Below dam)*	DH	
Pedlar River (Lower)*	A	
Pedlar River (Upper)*	B	**(H)**
Piney River (S. Fk. and Proper)*	B	(NSF)
Rocky Row Run*	C	
APPOMATTOX COUNTY		
Holliday Creek	DH	
AUGUSTA COUNTY		
Back Creek*	B	
Braley Pond*	A	
Elkhorn Lake*	A	
Falls Hollow*	C	(NSF)
Hearthstone Lake*	A	
Lower Sherando Lake*	A	
Mills Creek*	C	
North River (Natural Chimneys)	B	
North River (Gorge)*	B	
North River (Upper)*	B	(NSF)
North River (Tail)*	DH	
South River	DH	
Upper Sherando Lake*	A	
BATH COUNTY		
Back Creek	DH	
Back Creek*	B	
Bullpasture River	A	
Douthat Lake and Wilson Creek	+	
Jackson River Special Reg.*		
Jackson River (Hidden Valley)*	A	
Jackson River (Rt. 623)*	A	
Pads Creek*	C	
Spring Run	A	
BEDFORD COUNTY		
Liberty Lake	A	**(H)**
BLAND COUNTY		
Laurel Fork Creek	C	
Lick Creek	B	
Wolf Creek	A	
BOTETOURT COUNTY		
Jennings Creek*	A	**(H)**
McFalls Creek*	C	
Middle Creek*	B	
North Creek*	B	
Roaring Run*	B	

BUCHANAN COUNTY		
Dismal River	A	
Russell Fork River	C	
CARROLL COUNTY		
Chestnut Creek	DH	
Crooked Creek	A	**
Laurel Fork Creek	A	
Little Reed Island Creek	A	
Lovills Creek	C	
Stewarts Creek	B	(NSF)
CHESAPEAKE CITY		
Northwest River Park	U	
CRAIG COUNTY		
Barbours Creek*	B	(NSF)
North Fork Barbours Creek*	C	(NSF)
Potts Creek*	A	
DICKENSON COUNTY		
Cranesnest River	B	
Frying Pan Creek	C	
Pound River (Flannagan Dam)	A	
Russell Fork River (Haysi)	B	
Russell Fork River (Bartlick)	A	
FAIRFAX COUNTY		
Accotink Creek	DH	
FAUQUIER COUNTY		
Thompson WMA Pond	A	
FLOYD COUNTY		
Burkes Fork	A	
Goose Creek	C	
Howell Creek	B	(NSF)
Laurel Fork	B	
Little Indian Creek	B	(NSF)
Little River	A	
Mira Fork	B	(NSF)
Rush Fork	C	(NSF)
West Fork Little River	B	(NSF)
FRANKLIN COUNTY		
Maggadee Creek	B	
Runnett Bag Creek	B	
FREDERICK COUNTY		
Clearbrook Lake	A	
Hogue Creek	B	
Paddy Run*	B	
Winchester Lake	A	
GILES COUNTY		
Big Stoney Creek*	A	
Dismal Creek*	B	(NSF)
GRAYSON COUNTY		
Big Wilson Creek	A	
Elk Creek	A	
Fox Creek*	B	
Hales Lake*	A	
Helton Creek	C	
Middle Fox Creek	B	
GREENE COUNTY		
South River	B	

HENRICO COUNTY	
Dorey Park Lake	
HENRY COUNTY	
Smith River (Dam)	
Smith River (Lower)	
HIGHLAND COUNTY	
Bullpasture River	
S. Br. Potomac River	
LEE COUNTY	
Martins Creek	
North Fork Powell River	
MADISON COUNTY	
Hughes River	
Robinson River	
Rose River	
MONTGOMERY COUNTY	
Craig Creek*	
Pandapas Pond*	
Poverty Creek*	
South Fork Roanoke River	
Toms Creek	
NELSON COUNTY	
South Rockfish River	
Tye River	
NEWPORT NEWS CITY	
Biggins Lake	
PAGE COUNTY	
Cub Run*	
Hawksbill Creek	
Upper Passage Creek*	
PATRICK COUNTY	
Ararat River	
Clarks Creek	
Dan River (Above Talbott)	
Dan River (Below Powerhous	
Poorhouse Creek	
Rockcastle Creek	
Round Meadow Creek	
South Mayo River (North For	
South Mayo River (South For	
PRINCE WILLIAM COUNT	
Locust Shade Park	
Quantico MCB	
PULASKI COUNTY	
Peak Creek	
RICHMOND CITY	
Shield Lake	
ROANOKE COUNTY	
Glade Creek	
Roanoke River (City)	
Roanoke River (Green Hill Pa	
Roanoke River (Salem)	
Tinker Creek	
ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY	
Irish Creek*	
Maury River	

Stocking Plan

October 1 and June 16 (Urban waters 11/1–4/30)

	Mill Creek*	A	
	South River	B	
	ROCKINGHAM COUNTY		
	Briery Branch Lake*	A	
	Dry River	B	(NSF)
	German River	C	
	Hone Quarry Lake*	A	
	Hone Quarry Run*	C	
	North Fork Shenandoah River	B	
	Shoemaker River	C	
	Silver Lake	B	
	Slate Lick Lake*	B	
	Slate Lick Run*	B	
	South River (Grottoes)	A	
	RUSSELL COUNTY		
(H)	Big Cedar Creek	A	
	SCOTT COUNTY		
	Bark Camp Lake*	A	**(H)**
	Big Stony Creek	B	
	Little Stony Creek*	B	
	Stock Creek	C	
	Straight Fork (Lower)	C	
	SHENANDOAH COUNTY		
(NSF)	Little Passage Creek*	C	
	Mill Creek	B	
	Passage Creek*	A	**(H)**
	Peters Mill Creek*	C	
	Stony Creek	A	
	Tomahawk Pond*	B	
	SMYTH COUNTY		
	Comers Creek*	C	
	Cressy Creek*	C	
	Dickey Creek*	C	
	Hurricane Creek*	C	
(NSF)	Middle Fork Holston River (Marion)	A	**(H)**
(NSF)	Middle Fork Holston River (Upper)	B	
(NSF)	South Fork Holston River (Buller Dam)*	A	
	South Fork Holston River (Lower)	A	
	Staley Creek	A	
	STAUNTON CITY		
(NSF)	Lake Tams	B	
	TAZEWELL COUNTY		
	Lake Witten	A	**(H)**
	Laurel Creek*	C	
	Lincolnshire Lake	A	**(H)**
	Little Tumbling Creek	B	
	WARREN COUNTY		
	Happy Creek	B	
DH	Passage Creek	DH	
	WASHINGTON COUNTY		
(H)	Beartree Lake*	A	**(H)**
	Big Brumley Creek	C	
	Big Tumbling Creek	A	**
	Straight Branch*	C	
	Tennessee Laurel	A	
	Valley Creek	C	
	Whitetop Laurel (Lower)*	A	
	Whitetop Laurel (Upper)*	A	
	WISE COUNTY		
	Clear Creek*	C	
	Middle Fork Powell River	B	
	Pound River/N.Fk. Pound River	DH	
	WYTHE COUNTY		
	Cripple Creek (Ravens)	A	**(H)**
	Cripple Creek (Rt. 94)	A	
	Gullion Fork Creek*	C	
	Gullion Fork Ponds*	C	
	Rural Retreat Lake Pond	B	
	Stoney Creek*	C	
	West Fork Reed Creek*	C	

Category A, stocked in each of the following periods: October (once), November or December (once),January or February; (once), March (twice), April (twice), May (twice).

Category B, stocked in each of the following periods: November or December (once), January or February (once), March (once), April-May 15 (twice).

Category C, stocked once in each of the following periods: November or December, March; April.

* National Forest Waters

\+ Douthat stocked as Category A, Wilson as Category B put-and-take water after fee fishing season

DH Delayed Harvest Water-Special Regulations apply, please refer to article on Delayed Harvest, this issue.

(NSF) These waters **do not** receive fall & early winter stockings

U Urban fishing waters, trout license required November 1 through April 30, stocked 10 times

** A section of these waters is reserved for a fee fishing area

(H) These waters will recieve a stocking for the "Heritage Day" program. Heritage Day is April 6. For details see the section explaining Heritage Day in this magazine.

Stocking information for put-and-take stocking can be obtained by calling **1-804-525-FISH (525-3474)** or for hearing impaired **1-804-525-4071**. The recording is updated after 4:00 p.m. each day fish are stocked, or go to our Web site at **www.dgif.state.va.us**.

Trout Species of Virginia

Trout belong to the salmon family (Salmonidae), which are native only to the northern hemisphere. Salmonidae includes trout, salmon, char, whitefish, and grayling.

Brook Trout
(Salvelinus fontinalis)

Coloration: The brook trout is Virginia's most colorful trout species. Its back is dark olive green with light, wormy lines. Its sides have light spots on a dark background and red spots surrounded by a bluish halo. Often the entire side has a bluish tint. Its belly area is generally white with intense orange-red streaking during spawning season. Lower fins are distinctively marked with an outer white edge, black line and reddish coloration.

Brook trout by Duane Raver

Distribution: The brook trout is endemic to eastern North America, meaning that originally it occurred in no other region. Initial distribution included the Atlantic seaboard south to Cape Cod, the Appalachians south to Georgia, then extending west through the Great Lakes to Minnesota and north to Hudson Bay. Due to its popularity as a gamefish, however, it has been introduced into many other regions and is now found in much of the western United States, Europe, South America, New Zealand, and Asia. No other species of trout occurred in Virginia prior to man's stocking activities.

Biology: Brook trout spawn in October and November in Virginia. Spawning takes place in small streams, usually near the tail of a pool. Brook trout generally move upstream to spawn, often into the smaller headwater tributaries. In Virginia, an average female lays approximately 100 eggs in a clean gravel bed. Eggs hatch two to three months after they are spawned, and fry emerge from the gravel the following March.

Brook trout in Virginia reach sexual maturity at two years of age and an average length of 6.5 inches. The life span of this species is generally less than four years in this region, with most fish reaching about 9 to 12 inches by this time. Brook trout to 18 inches have been collected in Virginia and some streams contain occasional trout of 12–16 inches. However, very few fish in a population can be expected to reach this size, even with restricted fishing.

The diet of brook trout consists of almost anything in the stream. Although their preferred foods consist of aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, minnows, salamanders, and frogs are also taken. In most cases, available food is a limiting factor in the unproductive mountain streams common to Virginia. Therefore, fish must be non-selective and opportunistic to compete. **State Record:** 5 lb. 10 oz., Big Stony Creek, Shenandoah County.

Rainbow Trout
(Onchorynchus mykiss)

Coloration: This fish has an olive-green back often with a silvery cast grading to a silvery white underside. The dominant characteristic is the pink band extending from the cheek to near the tail. Rainbows are generally well spotted with black spots intensifying on the upper fins and tail. The anal fin is often tipped with white in streambed fish.

Distribution: Rainbow trout are native to the Pacific Coast from Alaska to northern Mexico eastward to the continental divide. The steelhead is the same species, differing only in its need to migrate to and from the ocean. Rainbows have been widely distributed and now occur throughout the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, South America, Africa, Japan, Asia, Europe, and Hawaii. In Virginia, the species is well established in the southwestern region of the state and is the dominant trout in the Mt. Rogers Area. North of Roanoke, distribution is limited, with most rainbow populations occurring in spring creeks. Although rainbow trout have displaced the brook trout over much of its range in the southeastern United States, most of the remaining brook trout habitat in Virginia does not appear suitable for the rainbow.

Biology: Life history of various rainbow trout populations can differ significantly. Certain strains will migrate from a lake or ocean into streams to spawn, while others may remain in the same stream throughout their life. Also, the time of spawning can vary greatly between populations. Certain behavioral and physiological differences are genetic, providing fish managers with additional management tools.

Rainbow trout by Duane Raver

In Virginia, most wild rainbow trout populations are strictly stream residents. Spawning occurs in gravel beds similar to those used by brook trout. The major difference is that rainbow trout are generally spring spawners, laying eggs in March. Hatchery managers have altered this natural spawning time,

however, to create fall spawners for hatchery purposes. This fall spawning characteristic is apparently retained by some of Virginia's wild rainbow trout populations. Rainbow trout also have greater reproductive potential than brooks, with females laying 800 to 1000 eggs, depending on the size of the fish. This higher reproductive capacity is probably the reason over exploitation is less of a problem than it is with brook trout.

The diet of rainbows is quite similar to that of brook trout. Larger rainbows often show a greater preference for minnows than do brookies, but the main diet still consists of invertebrates. Rainbows are somewhat more selective than brook trout and, therefore, slightly more difficult to catch.

Rainbows have the potential to attain a much greater size than brook trout, but in Virginia's mountain streams they exhibit similar growth and age structure. In spring creeks and large reservoirs, however, rainbow trout over 5 pounds are not uncommon. **State Record:** 14 lb. 7 oz., Greer Trout Pond, Grayson County.

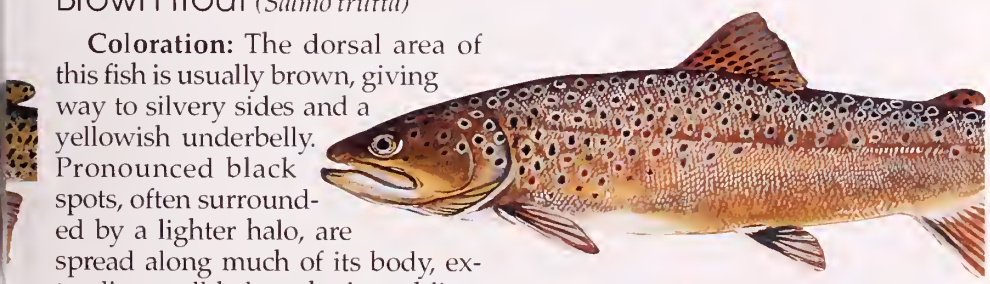
Brown Trout *(Salmo trutta)*

Coloration: The dorsal area of this fish is usually brown, giving way to silvery sides and a yellowish underbelly. Pronounced black spots, often surrounded by a lighter halo, are spread along much of its body, extending well below the lateral line. In addition, irregularly shaped red or orange spots are also present along its sides. Some dark spots occur on the dorsal, adipose, and tail fin, but such coloration is not as concentrated as on rainbows. The adipose fin is usually an orange/red color.

Distribution: Brown trout are native only to Europe and western Asia. They have been widely introduced elsewhere and are now found throughout the United States, southern Canada, and the Rocky Mountains, as well as in South America, Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. In Virginia, the brown trout distribution is limited, with most wild populations occurring in the Carroll, Floyd, and Patrick county areas. Small scattered populations also occur in the lower portion of many larger, wild brook trout streams throughout the state.

Biology: Brown and brook trout require similar spawning habitats, often utilizing the same sites in streams containing both species. Brown trout spawn later than brook trout, generally in November and December in Virginia. They have a higher reproductive potential than the other two species, mainly because of their larger size.

Brown trout reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. The life expectancy of this species is longer than that of the other two trout. Although life spans of 10–15 years have been reported, brown trout in Virginia usually do not exceed four to five years of age. The longer life span naturally increases the potential size of the brown despite annual growth rates similar to brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will occasionally produce brown trout over 20 inches.



Brown trout by Duane Raver

Brown trout are highly carnivorous, maintaining a diet of insects, crustaceans, mollusks, salamanders, frogs, rodents, and fish. Fish and crayfish are the predominant diet of browns over 12 inches while smaller trout generally stick to invertebrates. Larger browns have a tendency to feed at dusk and after dark, making the larger fish difficult to catch. **State Record:** 14 lb. 12 oz., South Fork Holston River.

Wild Trout Program

Wild trout populations require cold, well-oxygenated water, a clean stream bottom, and good fish cover. In Virginia, most trout habitat losses occur through increased stream temperature, siltation, and stream channel alteration.

Water temperature requirements may be the most critical factor facing Virginia's trout populations, and the state's generally warm climate and normally low summer stream flows do not help the situation. Most shaded mountain streams do not exceed 70°F during the summer, which is suitable for trout. Aquatic habitat and suitable water temperature can be maintained even during logging and farming operations when streamside vegetation is left intact. In most cases, maximum stream temperatures in the low 70s are within the tolerable range for trout, but such temperatures improve the habitat for other stream fishes which trout cannot compete against.

Siltation and other more direct forms of habitat alteration, such as channelization, have also cost Virginia many miles of trout water. Silted stream bottoms decrease the stream's insect population, an important source of trout food. Siltation also makes trout reproduction difficult. Trout lay eggs in stream gravel, and clean gravel is necessary to insure movement of oxygenated water over the eggs. As little as a quarter-inch of silt over trout eggs can result in 100 percent mortality.

Alteration of stream channels is also of critical concern, not only due to the increased siltation it causes, but also due to the removal of fish cover and the potential to raise water temperatures. Trout require overhead cover, such as undercut banks, large rocks, or submerged logs. When such cover is removed, the trout leave. Lack of suitable cover limits the number of large trout a stream can support.

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Virginia lost many good wild trout populations prior to the mid-1970s due to habitat degradation. However, many of the land-use practices that resulted in those losses—widespread stream channelization, poor logging techniques, removal of streamside vegetation, intensive agriculture in riparian areas, etc.—have been improved to the point where, over the past two decades, the physical habitat has been improving. In addition, the Department maintains a current inventory of wild trout streams that provides the data necessary to protect this critical habitat.

The Department's trout stream inventory identifies over 2300 miles of wild trout streams in Virginia. Biologists are encouraged to find that brook trout, the only trout species native to Virginia, still accounts for 80 percent of the wild trout resource in the state. Rainbow trout, a western introduction, have taken over many of the native brook trout streams in the other southeastern states. As a result, Virginia currently has more native brook trout streams than all other southeastern states combined.

Growth rates of wild trout, particularly brook trout, in Virginia are exceptional when compared with growth rates for similar streams in some other states. In most Virginia streams, adult brook trout average 8–10 inches by their third year of age. In respect to the number of streams available and the size of trout present, Virginia probably offers the best native brook trout fishing south of New England.

Unlike warmwater fish, such as bass and bluegill, trout have a very low ability to reproduce. Therefore, in heavily fished areas, it is imperative to protect trout until they are able to spawn at least once. In order to accomplish this objective, a 7-inch minimum size limit has been imposed on all trout creeled in Virginia. Such a limit will allow most wild trout to reach spawning age before they are subject to harvest.

Special Regulation Wild Trout Streams

In the following streams, regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and all trout less than 9 inches in length be returned to the water unharmed. The exceptions are: the Rapidan River and its tributaries; Stewart's Creek; North Fork Moorman River; Dan River; East Fork of Chestnut Creek; Roaring Fork; North Creek, and South Fork Holston River, which require the release of all fish caught, and Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks, which have a 12-inch minimum size limit.

Buffalo River (Amherst County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of North Fork of Buffalo River and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest. Access is available by forest trail off Forest Road 51 or from the end of State Route 635. Buffalo Creek is a moderate to high gradient stream dominated by large boulders and deep pools. The stream contains a good, native brook trout population with numerous fish 8–10 inches in length.

Big and Little Wilson Creeks (Grayson County)

The special regulation sections of Big Wilson and Little Wilson Creeks and their tributaries include all portions of each stream within the boundaries of Grayson Highlands State Park and the Mount Rogers National Recreation Area. Big and Little Wilson Creeks provide an opportunity to fish for both wild rainbow and brook trout. Brook trout are primarily restricted to the headwaters of both streams and their tributaries. Rainbow trout can be found throughout the area. Big Wilson Creek offers some spectacular scenery. Large boulders predominate the stream channel, interspersed with deep pools associated with a steep gradient. Access can be gained through Grayson Highlands State Park or Route 806 and 817 off U.S. Route 58. Be prepared to do some hiking to fish this area.

Conway River/Devils Ditch (Greene County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Conway River and its major tributary, Devils Ditch, within the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area and the Shenandoah National Park. The stream contains brook trout in the upper reaches with wild brown trout scattered through the lower portions. Adult brook trout range from 7–11 inches in length; brown trout occasionally exceed 20 inches. The stream lies north of Stanardsville and can be reached by Route 615 from Graves Mill.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The Dan River in Patrick County, from the Pinnacles Powerhouse to Townes Dam, is designated as a catch-and-release trout fishery. Reproducing brown trout are the dominant species in the lower reaches of the section, while wild brook trout are found in the upper reaches. This 3-mile section of the Dan River has been subjected to very low flows for years; however, a new agreement with the City of Danville has resulted in greatly improved flows. The special regulation section can be

reached by taking Route 8 south of Stuart to Route 103 west, turn right on Route 648 at Claudeville and proceed to the powerhouse. In addition, the section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan. Turn left on Route 602 from Route 614 and proceed to Townes Dam. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge at the Pinnacles Powerhouse or from the City Utilities Department. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 804/799-5270.

East Fork of Chestnut Creek (Grayson and Carroll Counties)

The East Fork of Chestnut Creek, locally known as Farmer's Creek, has been designated a catch-and-release trout fishery. The special regulation section includes all portions of the creek upstream of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The lower mile of the special regulation area is a low gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous deep pools and undercut banks. The stream decreases in size and increases in gradient upstream, and it is characterized by numerous small plunge pools and a dense rhododendron canopy. Adult brook trout average 8–13 inches in length with occasional larger fish in the lower reaches. The stream lies south of Galax, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway a short distance east of Route 89.

Little Stony Creek (Giles County)

Special regulations apply to that portion of Little Stony Creek in the Jefferson National Forest. Most of the special section is below the Cascades waterfall. The upper reaches of Little Stony Creek contain native brook trout, but rainbow trout comprise most of the trout population below the Cascades. Adult rainbows average 7–12 inches in length. The area is heavily used by hikers and picnickers. The stream is located near Pembroke and can be reached by Route 623.

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Little Stony Creek (Shenandoah County)

Little Stony Creek is a small mountain brook trout stream. The special regulations apply to that portion of stream located within the George Washington National Forest, including Woodstock Reservoir. Adult brook trout presently average 7–10 inches in length. The stream is located west of Woodstock and the Forest Service Road 92 crosses the lower portion of the special regulation section. Much of the upper reaches can only be reached by foot trail.

North Creek (Botetourt County)

The upper section of the stream (upstream of the North Creek campground) was designated a catch-and-release trout stream in 1999. Rainbow trout predominate, although brook trout are present in the headwater tributaries. Adult trout will range from 7–12 inches. The stream is located east of Buchanan, a short distance from I-81. The Jefferson National Forest maintains a campground adjacent to the stream and vehicular access is available along most of its length.

North Fork Moormans River (Albemarle County)

That portion of the Moormans River lying within the Shenandoah National Park is designated as catch-and-release. The stream has historically contained an excellent population of brook trout with numerous adults of 8–12 inches. In addition, a small population of wild brown trout can be found in the lower half of the stream. However, this drainage was struck with devastating floods during June, 1995. The stream suffered significant habitat damage and resident trout populations have been severely reduced. Brook trout populations have been slow to recover in the lower reaches. Access to the Moormans River is available over State Route 614 past Sugar Hollow Reservoir, but much of the streamside trail no longer exists.

Ramsey's Draft (Augusta County)

Ramsey's Draft and its tributaries within the George Washington National Forest provide over 10 miles of native brook trout water. Most of this section of the stream is located within the Ramsey's Draft Wilderness Area, providing the angler with the opportunity to fish for quality native trout in a remote setting. Summer flows are usually quite low

in this stream, so plan to fish Ramsey's Draft during the springtime. To reach Ramsey's Draft, drive 15 miles west of Churchville on State Route 250 and look for the Mountain Home Picnic Area on the right. A foot trail parallels the stream from the picnic area.

Rapidan River (Madison County)

The Rapidan River is Virginia's best known trout stream. Not only was it the state's first special regulation stream, it was also the site of the Presidential Retreat established by President Hoover. Much of the original Camp Hoover is still intact and is occasionally used. The special regulation area of the Rapidan includes all the stream and its tributaries within the Shenandoah National Park and the Rapidan Wildlife Management Area. The stream contains an excellent native brook trout population with good numbers of 10–11 inch adults.

This stream drainage was hit by devastating floods in June, 1995 and September, 1996. Stream habitat was severely impacted along the lower reaches and in one tributary, the Staunton River. Impacted brook trout populations have rebounded very well in the Rapidan and, despite the significant loss of habitat in the Staunton River, populations in that stream are showing remarkable recovery. Access to the Rapidan is available over Route 662 from Graves Mill and over Route 649 from Criglersville.

Roaring Fork (Tazewell County)

This special regulation area is located within the boundaries of the Beartown Wilderness Area of the Jefferson National Forest. Acidification of this stream, resulting in a steadily declining brook trout population, prompted the inclusion of this stream section into Virginia's catch-and-release trout regulations. Access to the special regulated section is difficult and some hiking will be required. Access can be gained from Forest Service Road 222 off Route 16, south of Tazewell.

St. Mary's River (Augusta County)

The special regulation section includes all portions of the St. Mary's River above the gate at the National Forest boundary. It is a fairly high gradient stream with a number of waterfalls. Although water levels can get quite low along lower reaches, flows are much improved upstream and large, deep pools provide ample trout cover. Adult brook trout average 8–12 inches in length. Historically, the St. Mary's was well-known for its wild rainbow trout fishery, but stream acidification completely eliminated the wild rainbow trout fishery and seriously impacted native brook trout reproduction. In the spring of 1999, the U.S. Forest Service, in cooperation with the Department and other private organizations, limed the St. Mary's River to improve water quality. This effort has proven to be very successful. The dry weather we have experienced the past three winters has been ideal for brook trout reproduction and the improved water quality has allowed these fish to survive to adult size. The brook trout population in St. Marys River is now higher than it was in the 1970s. The stream lies east of Raphine off Route 608, a short distance from I-81. Most of the area is accessible by foot trail only and backpacking is popular .

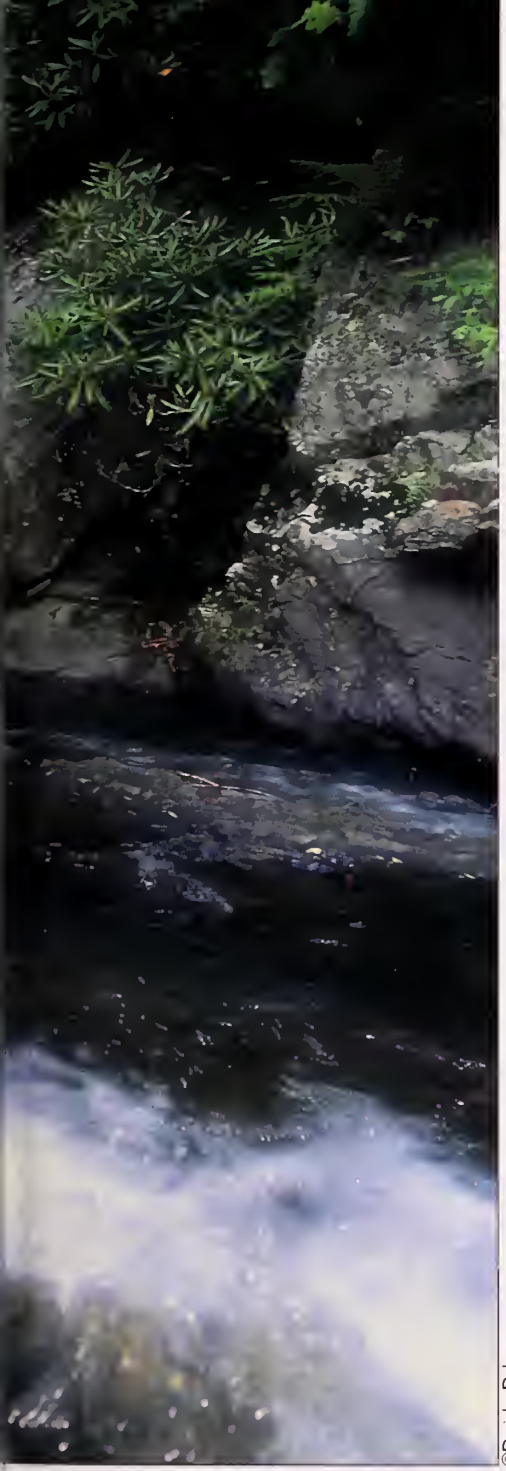
South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

This section of the South Fork Holston River lies within the boundaries of VDGIF's Buller Fish Hatchery. From the concrete dam downstream to the lower boundary of the hatchery property, only artificial lures with single hooks may be used and all trout caught must be released. This special regulation section of stream provides an excellent opportunity to catch trout of trophy size. Access can be gained through the Buller Fish Hatchery property off Route 650, south of Marion.

Stewart's Creek (Carroll County)

Stewart's Creek is another of the

catch-and-release trout fisheries. It is a high-gradient, native brook trout stream with numerous plunge pools, rock ledges, and a dense rhododendron canopy for cover. Approximately 4.5 miles of Stewart's Creek and its two major tributaries, North Fork and South Fork Stewart's Creek, were opened to the public in 1989 for year-round fishing as part of the Stewarts Creek Wildlife Management Area.



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Stewart's Creek Wildlife Management Area is southeast of Galax on the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway. Take Exit 1 off I-77. Follow the trailblazer signs to the area.

Whitetop Laurel/Green Cove Creeks (Washington County)

The special regulation area includes two sections. Prior to 1999, the lower mile of Green Cove Creek plus Whitetop Laurel Creek (to the first bridge above the village of Taylors Valley) made up the special regulation area. In 1999, an additional section (that extends from the Forest Service boundary below Taylors Valley, 2 miles downstream to the mouth of Straight Creek) was added. There will remain a section of catchable, trout stocked water without special regulations through the village of Taylors Valley. Whitetop Laurel is one of Virginia's largest and most beautiful wild trout streams. Wild rainbow trout dominate, with most adults in the 7–14 inch class. A few wild brown trout provide occasional trophy fish. The special regulation area is located east of Damascus (near the Tennessee line) and lies within the Mount Rogers Recreation Area. Minimum size limit in this section is 12 inches.

Shenandoah National Park (SNP)

The Park provides an entire region of special regulation trout streams, extending from Front Royal to Waynesboro. Park regulations were modified in 1996 and most streams are now open to fishing. However, only a portion of those streams open to angling allow for the harvesting of trout. Check with SNP for their annual list of streams where harvesting is permitted. All fishing in the Park is restricted to the use of single hook artificial lures. In streams allowing harvest the creel limit is 6 trout per day, all of which must be 9 inches or more in length. Most streams within the Park contain good populations of native brook trout, while a few of the larger east slope streams also contain isolated populations of brown trout.

Fingerling Stocking Program

The fingerling stocking program is the smallest of the state's three management programs. Established in the mid-1970s, it is designed to take advantage of the natural potential of high-elevation lakes, deep reservoirs, cold-water tailwaters, and spring-fed streams, to produce quality trout fishing opportunities where wild fisheries are not possible, due to the lack of natural reproduction.

Because summer water temperatures are usually a limiting factor to trout survival in Virginia, under this program a stream or lake must provide suitable, year-round water temperatures for trout survival, have good habitat, and be productive enough to provide adequate food for good growth.

Suitable trout waters are stocked once annually with fingerling or subcatchable (smaller than the legal size limit) trout, and often length limits and angling gear restrictions are imposed to protect these small fish until they reach harvestable size. In areas receiving heavy fishing pressure, special gear restrictions are often necessary to avoid high hooking mortality rates that can occur when bait fishing is permitted. These fish will often be caught several times before they eventually reach harvestable size, and the program can only be successful if hooking mortality remains low.

Depending on the length limit, these stocked fish will not reach a legal size for six months to two years. During this time, trout lose most of their hatchery characteristics, both in appearance and behavior, and create a fishery that approaches a wild one in terms of fishing experience.

Some of Virginia's most exciting trout fishing opportunities can be found within our fingerling stocking program, and by stocking small fish once a year, a high quality fishery can be developed at a fraction of the cost of the more common put and take program. Many anglers have discovered this quality angling and participation in the program is growing. VDGIF recognizes this growing interest and is continuing to develop new waters in the state.

Trout Lakes

The warm summer climate of Virginia limits the potential for development of good trout populations in lakes. Numerous small ponds and lakes are stocked under the catchable stocking program (see *Trout Stocking Plan*), however, very few provide good, year-round trout habitat for management of wild or put-and-grow trout fisheries. In order to provide adequate coldwater habitat in Virginia, a lake must either be located at high elevations where cool summer temperatures prevail, or be deep enough to maintain a cold layer of water. Virginia has five small lakes at sufficient elevation for trout and two reservoirs deep enough to provide a two-story fishery. These two-story reservoirs stratify during summer months, providing an upper, warmwater layer where fish, such as bass, bluegill, crappie, and catfish exist and a deep, coldwater layer suitable for trout.

Laurel Bed Lake (Russell County)

Laurel Bed Lake is a 330-acre, mountaintop impoundment located approximately 10 miles northwest of Saltville. The lake is located in the Clinch Mountain Wildlife Management Area and, in addition to providing a unique fishery, is used to augment the flow to Big Tumbling Creek during summer months. Until 1999, Laurel Bed Lake was part of the fee fishing area, but the lake no longer requires a daily permit or a trout license. The fishery is based on stocking sub-catchable brook trout in the fall. Fishing is usually excellent through June, with limits of trout being common. The favored fishing methods include nightcrawlers, mealworms, flies, and spinners. Fishing usually becomes sporadic as the lake temperature increases, with fish hitting well for a few days, then slacking off for several days. Favorite summer fishing spots are located around coves where spring branches enter. Late summer and early fall fishing is dependent on the number of fish that survive through the summer, and this changes significantly from year to year. Limited camping is permitted on the management area and a concession is in operation.

Lexington City Reservoir (Rockbridge County)

The Lexington City Reservoir is a 22-acre, high elevation lake located in Rockbridge County. It is a put-and-grow lake that is stocked annually with brook trout. The brookies have done well in the reservoir and many measure 9–13 inches in length.

It is a long hike across USFS lands to the reservoir and primitive camping is permitted. General fishing regulations are in effect, and no trout stamp is required. However, a one dollar daily use permit is required from Lexington Public Works Department, (540) 463-3154.

Mills Creek and Coles Run Reservoirs (Augusta County)

Mills Creek (17 acres) and Coles Run (13 acres) are located in the Pedlar Ranger District of the George Washington National Forest. They are both old Augusta County Water Supply Reservoirs that were first opened to fishing in 1990.

The lakes are managed as put-and-grow lakes and are stocked annually with small brook trout. Samples collected show good populations of 10–12 inch brook trout.

There are no facilities and access by foot is about a half mile to Coles Run and 1.5 miles to Mills Creek. For more information, call the Glenwood/Pedlar Ranger District at (540) 291-2188. Access is west of Route 664 at Sherando off Forest Service Road 42.

Skidmore Lake (Switzer Dam)

Skidmore Lake is a 104-acre impoundment located off Route 33 west of Harrisonburg. The dam was built by the Soil Conservation Service for flood control and water supply, and it is now managed by the City of Harrisonburg. An access road is available off Route 33. Boats, without motors, are permitted but must be carried to the water as no ramp is provided. Fingerling brook trout have been stocked since 1976 and fishing has been permitted since 1979. Angler success has been good, with most fish in the 8–14 inch range and an occasional large brook trout of 2–3 pounds. In addition, the lake has developed a fairly good population of largemouth bass, bluegill, and crappie. In recent years, the city has drawn more water from the lake and it is not unusual to find the lake well below full pool in late summer and fall, which can make boat access very difficult. No camping is permitted at the lake, but primitive camping is available in the National Forest nearby.

Trophy Trout Lakes

Regulations on the following two reservoirs were changed in 1995 to reflect the potential of these lakes to produce trophy-sized trout. The creel limit on these reservoirs was reduced to two trout per day with a minimum size limit of 16 inches. These changes have resulted in the availability of many more large trout.

Lake Moomaw (Alleghany/Bath Counties)

This flood control reservoir was completed in 1981 with the closing of the Gathright Dam on the Jackson River. It resulted in the formation of a 13-mile long, 2530-acre reservoir with more than 43 miles of shoreline.

Much of the shoreline is adjacent to the 13,428-acre Gathright Wildlife Management Area, which is owned and managed by the Department. The average depth of the lake is 80 feet and flow augmentation results in a normal 5 to 15-foot draw down by late summer.

Trout management at the reservoir consists of stocking subcatchable brown trout and the McConaughy strain of rainbow trout.

Brown trout fishing has been good in recent years with large numbers of trout over 5 pounds reported caught. McConaughy strain rainbow trout are doing very well, also. Most trout are caught by trolling with shad imitation crankbaits; some are caught still-fishing with live shad 25 feet down and others by jump fishing. Some are caught incidental to bass fishing.

The area around Moomaw provides nearly year-round opportunities for boating water sports, fishing, camping, picnicking, hiking, birding, sight-seeing, photography, and hunting.

Boats are restricted to a maximum length of 25 feet. No house boats are allowed and excessive noise is prohibited. Trailer-launched boats must be launched at ramps at Fortney Branch, Bolar Flat, or Coles Point. Canoes and cartops can be launched at Coles Mountain Fishing Access, McClintock Bridge, McClintock Point, and Midway.

The lake is open 24 hours a day, year-round. There is a 12-inch size limit on bass. Neither a trout license nor a National Forest stamp is required.

The Bolar Mountain Recreation Area provides camping, swimming, beaches, restrooms, and picnic grounds. Bolar Flat has a picnic area, a four-lane boat dock, a courtesy dock, a marina, and restrooms. There are primitive camping areas at Greenwood and McClintock Point. The Morris Hill Campground and picnic area, the four-lane Fortney Branch ramp and courtesy dock, and the Coles Mountain Area are located on the south end of the lake in Alleghany County. A daily fee is charged for swimming, picnicking, camping, and use of boat ramps.

For facilities information, contact the James River Ranger District in Covington (540) 962-2214; the Warm Springs Ranger District in Hot Springs (540) 839-2521 or 839-2442; or the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Covington (540) 962-1138.

Philpott Reservoir (Henry County)

Philpott Lake is a 2880-acre reservoir located west of Martinsville. Warmwater fishing is the major attraction, but trout are also stocked annually. Stockings generally consist of 8–9 inch McConaughy rainbow trout released in the fall of the year. Fishing success has been highly variable, probably due to the varying volume of the summer coldwater habitat available. Trout can be caught throughout the lake during spring, fall, and winter, but during summer months most successful fishermen fish deep at night. Philpott generally produces some of the larger rainbow trout taken each year, with catches up to 7–8 pounds.

Special Regulations

Jackson River Tailwater (Alleghany County)

The Jackson River below Gathright Dam provides almost 19 miles of high quality trout fishing on a large river. The river is legally navigable and is easily floated by canoe. Six access points are available for public use, located at about 3 mile intervals. Several landowners along the upper portion of this section of river have legally established exclusive private rights to the fishery on their properties. Many other landowners have used that legal decision to also post their sections of river. Because of the proliferation of posting and legal challenges by riparian landowners, the Department discontinued its stocking program in 1996.

Regulations on this section of river allow the use of bait and creeling of 4 trout per day over 12 inches in length. Trout populations, which had shown a significant decline after stocking was terminated, have now rebounded. A good wild rainbow trout fishery has developed in the upper half of this river's reach and wild brown trout are now showing up in increasing numbers. Trout density and average size are now approaching levels seen when trout were stocked annually. The fishery should continue to improve.

In the following streams, special regulations require the use of single hook, artificial lures, and restrict creel to fish over 12 inches in length. Trout from 6–8 inches are stocked periodically and allowed to grow for a year or two before being creeled. This approach can be used in streams that maintain good flow, cool summer waters, and are productive enough for good growth of trout.

Smith Creek (Alleghany County)

The special regulation section extends from the Forest Service boundary (above the old C & O Dam) upstream 2.5 miles to the Clifton Forge Dam. Within this section, fingerling brown trout are stocked once annually. The stream contains good numbers of 8–12 inch brown trout with occasional fish to 20 inches. The stream maintains good flow throughout the year and provides wide, flat pools and good fly-fishing opportunities. The best way to access this stream is by Route 606 from Clifton Forge to the access road for the Clifton Forge Water Plant. Fishermen must park at the entrance and walk a half mile to the stream.

Snake Creek (Carroll County)

Special regulations apply to all of Big Snake Creek below Hall Ford and all of Little Snake Creek below the junction of Routes 922 and 674. The stream is located just north of Fancy Gap. Snake Creek is a moderate gradient, softwater, gravel bottomed stream with an average width of about 18 feet. The holdover of stocked brown trout is good, with some fish reaching 4 pounds. Recent sampling efforts indicate that some natural reproduction of brown trout is also occurring.

Trophy Trout Streams

In the following streams regulations restrict fishing to the use of single hook, artificial lures and the creel is two fish per day over 16 inches (except for Mossy Creek where the creel is one fish per day over 20 inches). Mossy Creek and Sinking Creek, furthermore, are restricted to fly-fishing only. The management approach is to stock fingerling trout (5-6 inches) in high quality streams where they will grow exceptionally fast.

Buffalo Creek (Rockbridge County)

The special regulation area includes that section of stream from the confluence of Colliers Creek upstream 2.9 miles to the confluence of North and South Forks of Buffalo Creek. The stream flows through private land and requires a written landowner permit to fish, which is available from the VDGIF office in Verona *(please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope)*. Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually as subcatchables, and good numbers of 10–16 inch fish are available. Trophy fish of 5–8 pounds have been caught in the stream. Buffalo Creek can be reached by taking Route 251 from Lexington.

Dan River (Patrick County)

The special regulation section is located within the Pinnacles Hydroelectric Project in what is known as the "Grand Canyon" of Virginia. The terrain is quite rugged and the scenery is spectacular. The section contains approximately 6 miles of stream and extends from Talbott Dam downstream to the confluence with Townes Reservoir. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and consists primarily of rainbow trout in the 8–12 inch size range and brown trout in the 8–18 inch size range. The upper reaches of the special regulation section can be reached by taking Route 614 south from Meadows of Dan. Turn right on Route 601 and proceed to Talbott Dam. The lower reach of the section can only be accessed by boat at the upper end of Townes Reservoir. A permit from the City of Danville is required and can be obtained at no charge from the City Utilities Department or on site at the Pinnacles Powerhouse. Contact: City of Danville, Director of Electric Division, Department of Utilities, P.O. Box 3300, Danville, VA 24543. Phone: 804/799-5270.

Jackson River (Bath County)

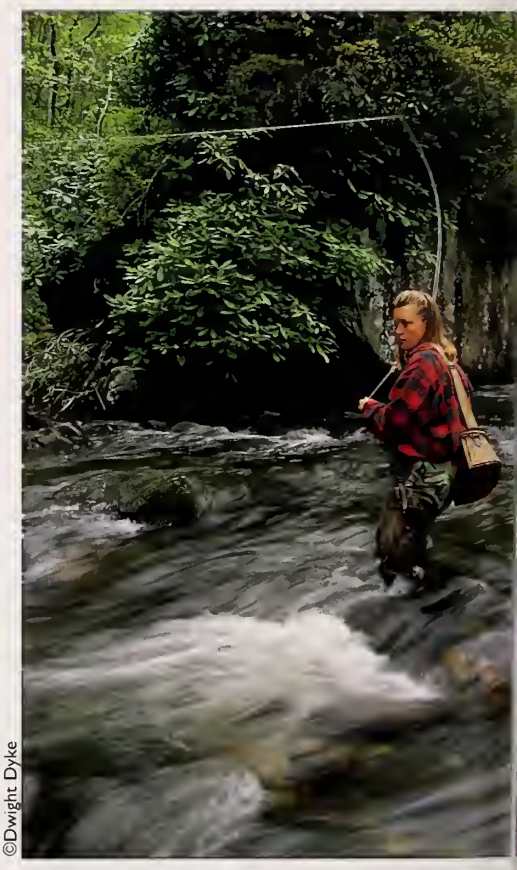
The regulations for this section of the Jackson River were changed in 1997. To take advantage of the growth potential of the stream, the size limit for taking trout was increased to 16 inches and the daily creel reduced to two. This section is stocked several times a year with catchable-sized trout and good populations are always present. The special regulation section extends from the USFS swinging bridge (located just above the mouth of Muddy Run) upstream 3 miles to the last ford on FS 481D. This section can only be reached by foot travel, either from the Hidden Valley area or off Route 623 and FS Road 481. The area provides a remote fishing opportunity on a relatively large, productive stream. A trout license is required to fish in this stream from October 1 through June 15.

Mossy Creek (Augusta County)

The special section includes about 4 miles of stream extending upstream from the Augusta/Rockingham County line. The stream is located just off Route 42 south of Bridgewater. Fishing in Mossy Creek is restricted to fly-fishing only and a written landowner permit must be obtained (available from the VDGIF office in Verona. *You must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope*). Mossy Creek is a classic, meadow, limestone stream averaging about 15 feet in width and flowing through open pastures. Brown trout in the 3–7 pound class are available to fishermen.

Pound River (Dickenson County)

This special regulation area begins at a sign posted 0.4 miles downstream of John W. Flannagan Dam and extends downstream 1.2 miles almost to the confluence with the Russell Fork River. Located within the rugged Cumberland Mountains, the scenic, tailwater fishery is dependent on coolwater discharges from Flannagan Reservoir. The Pound River immediately below the dam remains in the catchable trout program. Brown trout fingerlings are stocked in the special regulation area periodically to enhance the existing wild brown fishery. Anglers should be able to find occasional rainbow trout, as well as brown trout, up to and exceeding the 16 inch minimum size limit. This section of the Pound River can be accessed from Flannagan Dam, which is owned and operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.



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Roaring Run (Botetourt County)

The Roaring Run trophy trout section was established in 1999. The

1 mile section is located in the Jefferson National Forest between the third foot bridge upstream of the Roaring Run Furnace Day Use Area and the Botetourt County line. The lower section of Roaring Run (within the National Forest) remains put-and-take water. The trophy section runs through a very steep gorge that has an abundance of deep pools, which are supplied with coldwater from a large limestone spring. The trophy section continues to be developed using annual brown and rainbow fingerling stockings. Trout growth and survival to date has been good for both species of trout. Three-year classes of trout have been established in the stream and fish up to 16 inches are available for anglers. The stream can be accessed by taking Route 615 off US Route 220 west of Eagle Rock to Route 621 at Strom.

Sinking Creek (Giles County)

The special area is now restricted to the Giles County section only. The section extends from a cable with a VDGIF sign (0.4 miles below the State Route 703 low-water bridge) upstream 1.8 miles to a cable with VDGIF sign (which is 0.1 mile above the Reynolds farm covered bridge). Brown and rainbow trout are stocked annually and angling is restricted to fly-fishing only.

Smith River (Henry County)

The special area includes the posted section extending three miles downstream from Towne Creek, near the town of Bassett. Smith River is Virginia's most noted trophy trout stream. The historic state record (18 lb. 11 oz. brown trout) was taken in 1979 and numerous trout exceeding 10 pounds have been caught. Smith River is a large, flat, tailwater stream receiving coldwater discharges from Philpott Dam.

South Fork Holston River (Smyth County)

The special regulation section is located south of Marion and west of the community of Sugar Grove off Route 16. The area was expanded in 1999 and now includes approximately 4 miles of stream extending from 500 feet above the dam at Buller Hatchery, upstream to the upper Jefferson National Forest boundary (above the crossing of the Appalachian Trail). The South Fork offers the opportunity to fish for both trophy rainbow and brown trout. An abundance of 10–14 inch trout are available.

License Requirements

All residents 16 years of age and older are required to possess a *state fishing license* to fish for trout. Persons who fish in designated stocked waters (those waters listed in the *Trout Stocking Plan*) must have an additional *trout license*. A *National Forest Stamp* is necessary when fishing in most waters within the George Washington or Jefferson National Forests. Refer to your fishing regulation pamphlet for specific exemptions and costs of licenses.

When fishing in non-designated trout waters, such as wild trout streams or those special regulation areas not listed in the Trout Stocking Plan, the angler does not need a *trout license*. However, some of the special regulation areas require a *signed landowner permit card* which can be obtained from certain VDGIF offices and streamside landowners (refer to individual stream descriptions in this guide for details).

Out-of-state anglers who fish designated stocked waters need to purchase both a *non-resident state fishing license* (five-day, non-resident licenses are available), a *non-resident trout license*, and a *National Forest Stamp* (where appropriate.) For fishing in wild trout or most special regulation waters, the non-resident needs only a *non-resident state fishing license*, the appropriate *National Forest Stamp* and *landowner permit cards*.

Note: The trout license is only required from October 1 through June 15. From June 16 through September 30 anglers can fish in stocked trout waters without a trout license.

Fee-fishing areas require a *state or non-resident fishing license* and a *daily fishing permit* that can be obtained on site.

Senior citizens holding previously issued (but no longer available) $5 *senior lifetime fishing licenses* do not need to purchase any additional fishing or trout licenses. Virginia residents 65 years or older do not need to purchase a *National Forest Stamp*.

Please consult the regulation pamphlet available where you purchased your license for specific restrictions on size, creel, gear restrictions, and season lengths. □

More Questions About Trout Fishing?

Call or write to your closest VDGIF office:

Richmond
4010 West Broad St.
P.O. Box 11104
Richmond, VA 23230-1104
804/367-9369

Verona
P.O. Box 996
Verona, VA 24482
540/248-9360

Vinton
209 East Cleveland Avenue
Vinton, VA 24179
540/857-7704

Blacksburg
2206C South Main Street
Blacksburg, VA 24060
540/951-7923

Forest
1132 Thomas Jefferson Rd.
Forest, VA 24551-9223
434/525-7522

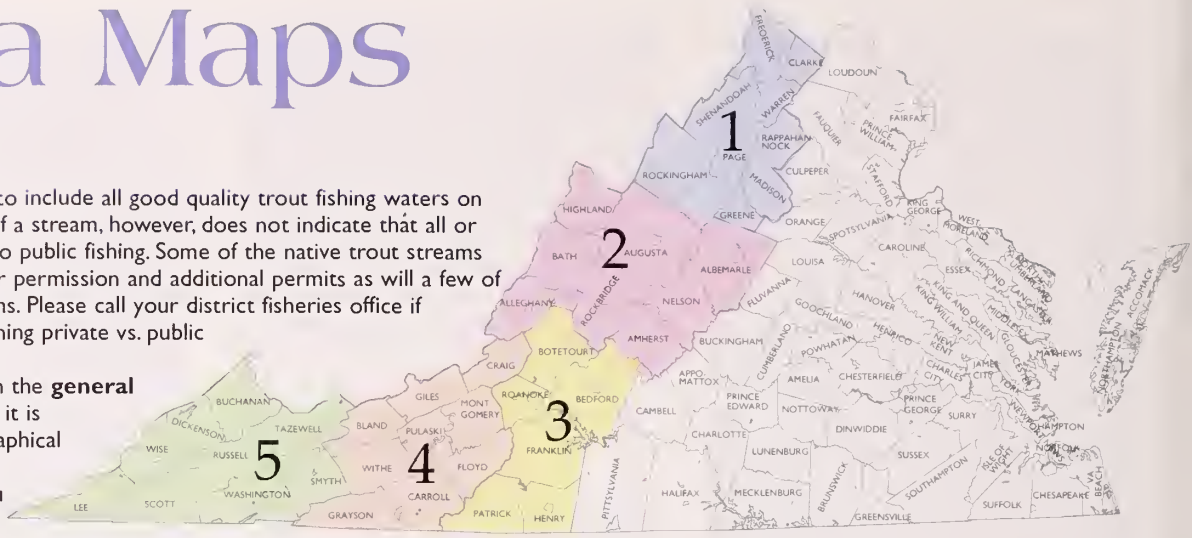
Marion
1796 Highway Sixteen
Marion, VA 24354
276/783-4860

Area Maps

Caution:

We have made an effort to include all good quality trout fishing waters on these area maps. Inclusion of a stream, however, does not indicate that all or part of the stream is open to public fishing. Some of the native trout streams listed will require landowner permission and additional permits as will a few of the special regulation streams. Please call your district fisheries office if you have a question concerning private vs. public fishing on a stream.

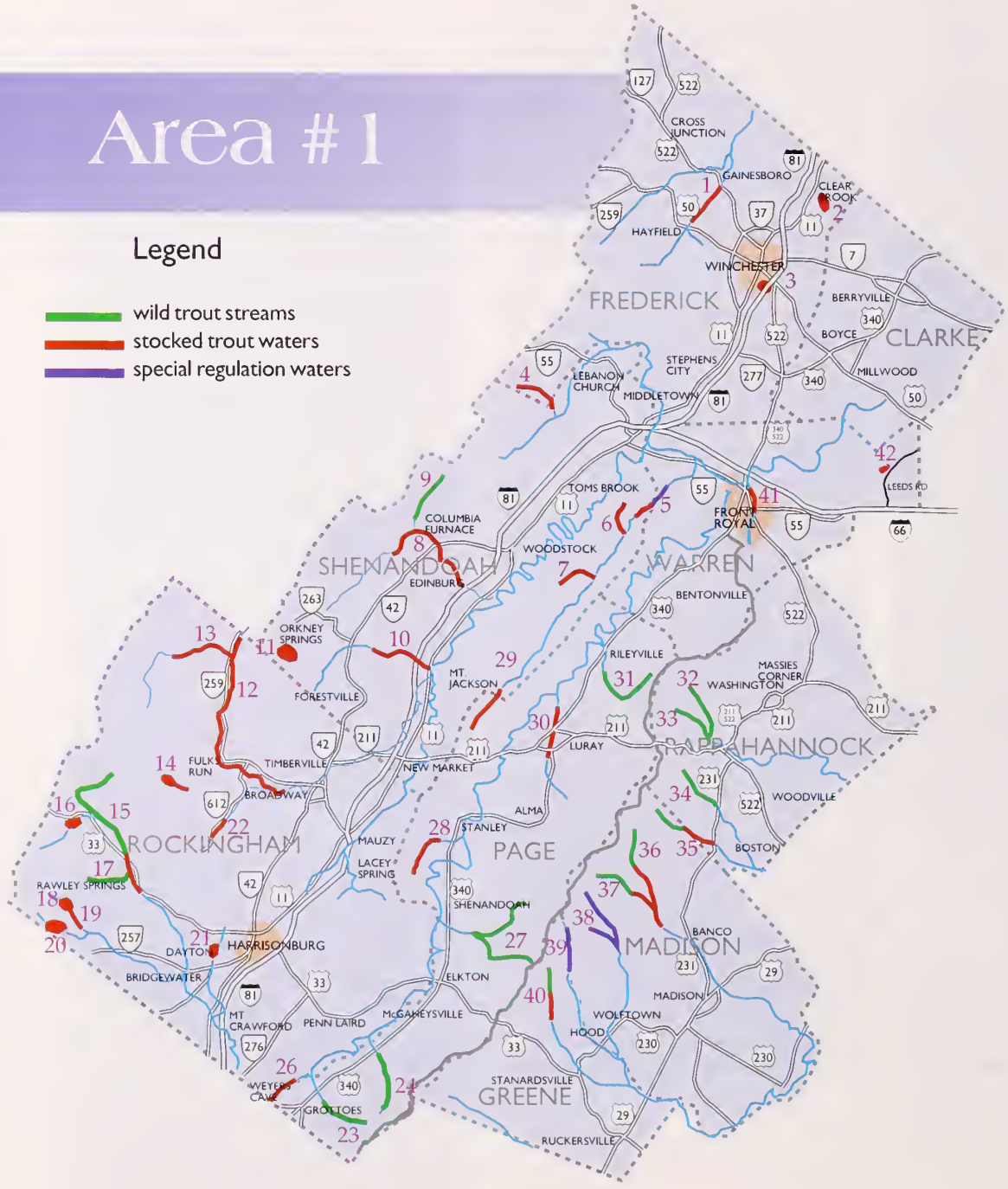
In addition, we have given the **general** location of each stream, but it is essential to obtain a topographical or county map to pinpoint specific locations before you start your fishing trip.



Area # 1

Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters



Frederick County
(1) Hogue Creek
(2) Clearbrook Lake
(3) Winchester Lake
(4) Paddy Run

Shenandoah County
(5) Passage Creek
(6) Little Passage Creek
(7) Peters Mill Creek
(8) Stony Creek
(9) Little Stony Creek
(10) Mill Creek
(11) Tomahawk Pond

Rockingham County
(12) N. Fk. Shenandoah River
(13) German River
(14) Slate Lick Lake/Slate Lick Run
(15) Dry River
(16) Switzer Lake
(17) Blacks Run
(18) Hone Quarry Lake
(19) Hone Quarry Run
(20) Briery Branch Lake
(21) Silver Lake
(22) Shoemaker River
(23) Madison Run (SNP)
(24) Big Run (SNP)
(26) South River (Grottoes)

Page County
(27) Naked Creek (SNP)
(28) Cub Run
(29) Upper Passage Creek
(30) Hawksbill Creek
(31) Jeremys Run (SNP)

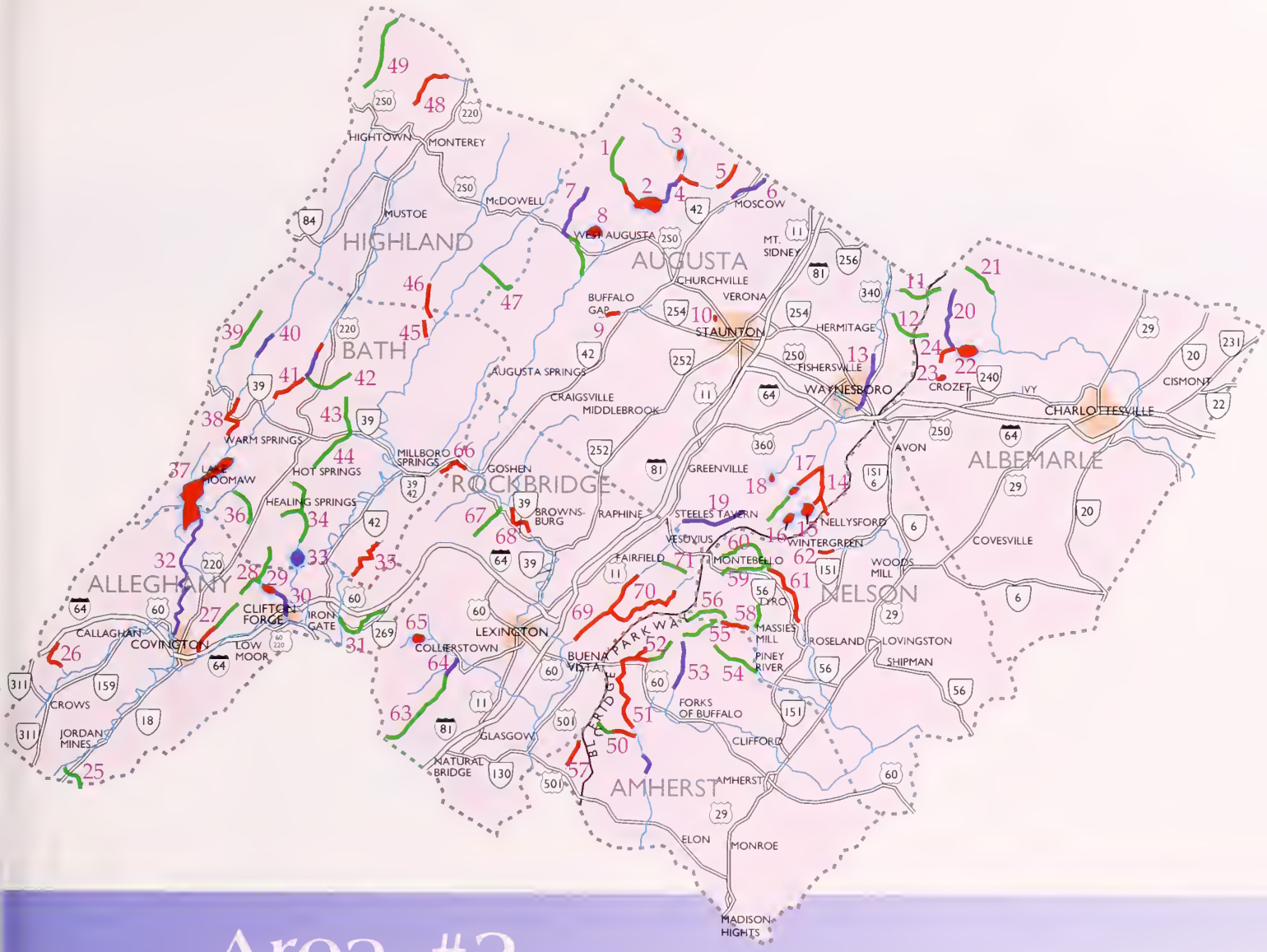
Rappahannock County
(32) Piney River (SNP)
(33) N. Fk. Thornton River (SNP)
(34) Hazel River (SNP)

Madison County
(35) Hughes Rivers (SNP)
(36) Robinson River (SNP)
(37) Rose River (SNP)
(38) Rapidan River (SNP)

Greene County
(39) Conway River
(40) South River

Warren County
(41) Happy Creek

Fauquier County
(42) Thompson WMA Pond



Area #2

Augusta County
(1) North River (Upper)
(2) Elkhorn Lake
(3) Hearthstone Lake
(4) North River (tailwater and gorge)
(5) North River (Natural Chimney)
(6) Mossy Creek
(7) Ramseys Draft
(8) Braley Pond
(9) Falls Hollow
(10) Staunton City Lake Tams
(11) Meadow Run (SNP)
(12) Paine Run (SNP)
(13) South River
(14) Back Creek
(15) Lower Sherando Lake
(16) Upper Sherando Lake
(17) Mills Creek Reservoir/Mills Creek
(18) Coles Run Reservoir
(19) St. Marys River

Albemarle County
(20) N. Fk. Moormans River (SNP)
(21) Doyles River (SNP)
(22) Sugar Hollow Reservoir
(23) Mint Spring Lakes
(24) S. Fk. Moormans River

Alleghany County
(25) Shawvers Run
(26) Jerrys Run
(27) Pounding Mill Creek
(28) Smith Creek
(29) Clifton Forge Reservoir
(30) Smith Creek
(31) Simpson Creek
(32) Jackson River tailwater

Bath County
(33) Douthat Lake
(34) Wilson Creek
(35) Pads Creek
(36) Cascades Creek
(37) Lake Moomaw
(38) Back Creek
(39) Little Back Creek
(40) Back Creek
(41) Jackson River
(42) Muddy Run
(43) Jordan Run
(44) Mares Run
(45) Spring Run
(46) Bullpasture River

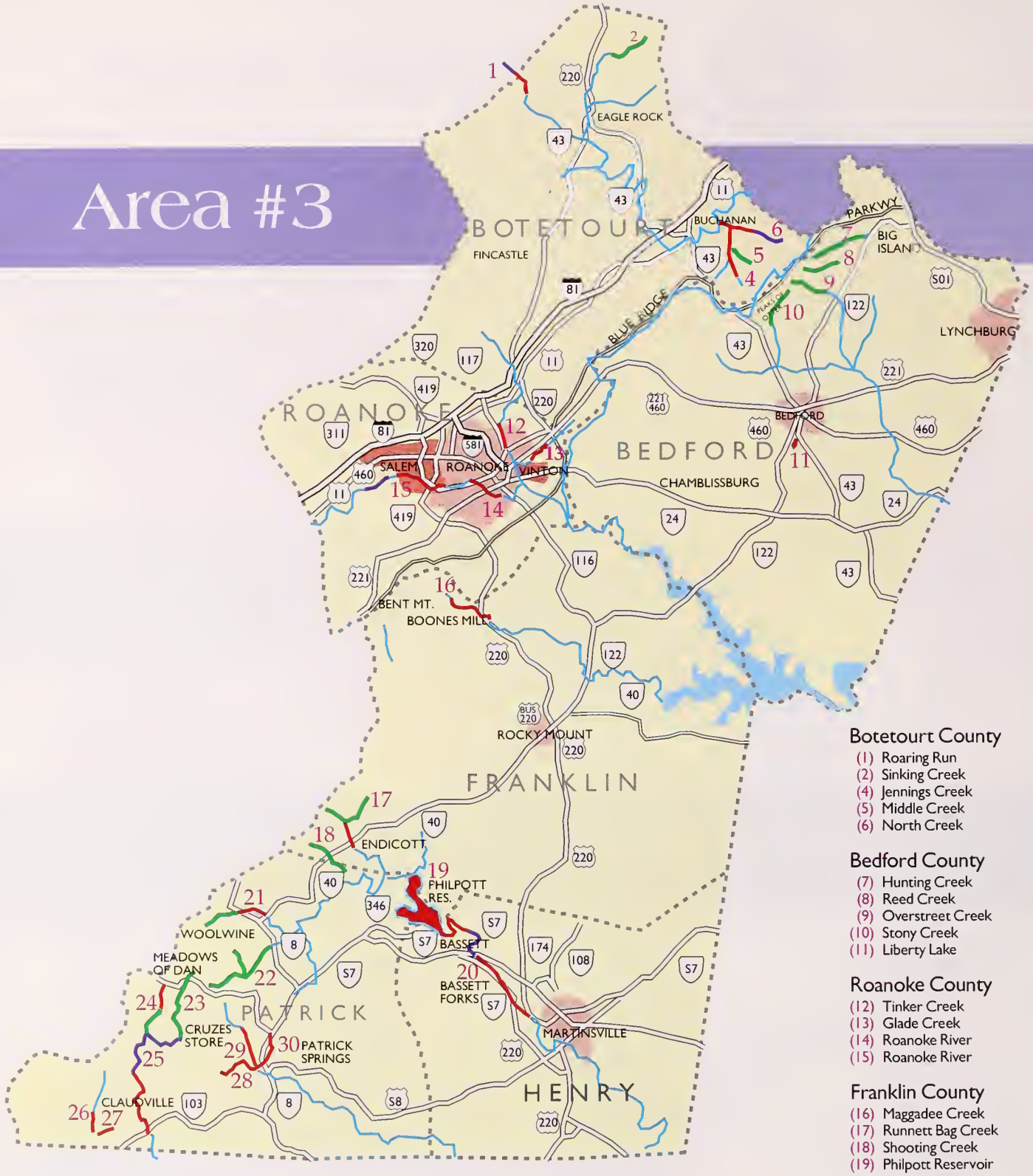
Highland County
(46) Bullpasture River
(47) Benson Run
(48) S. Br. Potomac River
(49) Laurel Fork

Amherst County
(50) Little Irish Creek
(51) Pedlar River
(52) Davis Mill Creek
(53) N. Fk. Buffalo River
(54) Little Piney River
(55) S. Fk. Piney River
(56) N. Fk. Piney River
(57) Rocky Row Run

Nelson County
(58) Shoe Creek
(59) S. Fk. Tye River
(60) N. Fk. Tye River
(61) Tye River
(62) South Rockfish River

Rockbridge County
(63) S. Fk. Buffalo Creek
(64) Buffalo Creek
(65) Lexington Reservoir
(66) Mill Creek
(67) Guys Run
(68) Maury River
(69) South River
(70) Irish Creek
(71) Big Marys Creek

Area #3



Legend

- wild trout streams
- stocked trout waters
- special regulation waters

Botetourt County
(1) Roaring Run
(2) Sinking Creek
(4) Jennings Creek
(5) Middle Creek
(6) North Creek

Bedford County
(7) Hunting Creek
(8) Reed Creek
(9) Overstreet Creek
(10) Stony Creek
(11) Liberty Lake

Roanoke County
(12) Tinker Creek
(13) Glade Creek
(14) Roanoke River
(15) Roanoke River

Franklin County
(16) Maggadee Creek
(17) Runnett Bag Creek
(18) Shooting Creek
(19) Philpott Reservoir

Henry County
(20) Smith River

Patrick County
(21) Rockcastle Creek
(22) Smith River
(23) Dan River
(24) Round Meadow Creek
(25) Dan River
(26) Ararat River
(27) Clarks Creek
(28) South Mayo River
(29) Poorhouse Creek
(30) N. Fk. South Mayo River

Area #4

Craig County
(1) Potts Creek
(2) N. Fk. Barbours Creek/ Barbours Creek
(3) Meadow Creek

Giles County
(4) Sinking Creek
(5) Big Stoney Creek
(6) Little Stoney Creek
(7) Johns Creek
(8) Mill Creek
(9) Dismal Creek

Montgomery County
(10) Craig Creek
(11) Poverty Creek
(11A) Pandapas Pond
(12) Toms Creek
(13) S. Fk. Roanoke River

Floyd County
(14) Goose Creek
(15) Little River
(16) W. Fk. Little River
(17) Howell Creek
(18) Rush Fork
(19) Mira Fork
(20) Little Indian Creek
(21) Burkes Fork
(22) Laurel Fork

Carroll County
(22) Laurel Fork
(23) Big Reed Island Creek
(24) Snake Creek
(25) Elk Spur Branch
(26) Lovills Creek
(27) Stewarts Creek
(28) Crooked Creek
(29) Little Reed Island Creek
(30) Chestnut Creek

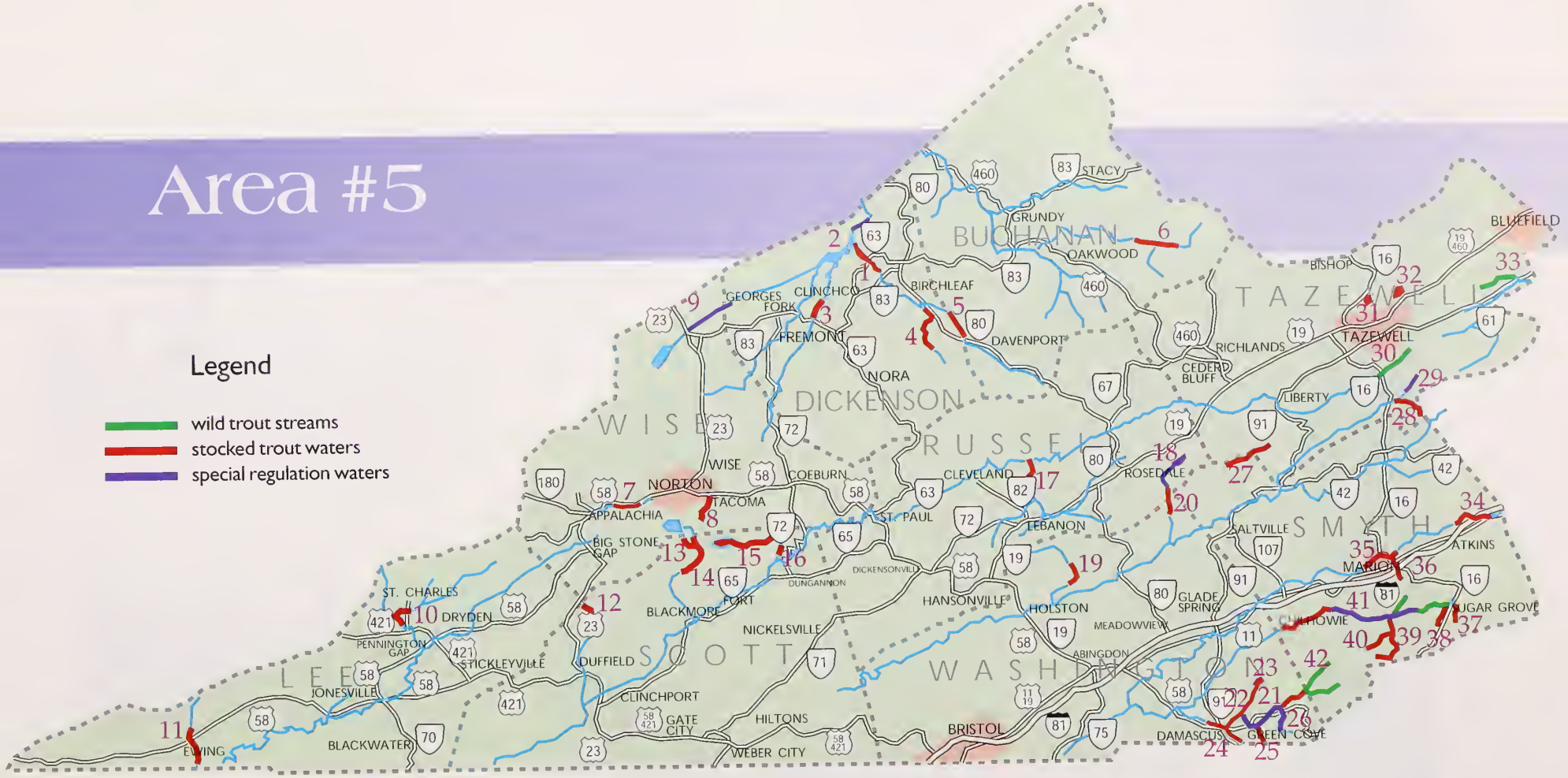
Pulaski County
(31) Peak Creek

Bland County
(32) Laurel Fork Creek
(33) Wolf Creek
(34) Lick Creek

Wythe County
(35) W. Fk. Reed Creek
(36) Guillon Fork/ Guillon Fork Ponds
(37) Stoney Creek
(38) Dry Run
(39) Cripple Creek
(30) Rural Retreat Lake Pond

Grayson County
(41) Hales Lakes
(42) Elk Creek
(43) Middle Fox Creek
(44) Fox Creek
(45) Big Wilson Creek
(46) Helton Creek
(47) Chestnut Creek

Area #5



Dickenson County
(1) Russell Fork River
(2) Pound River
(3) Cranesnest River
(4) Frying Pan Creek

Buchanan County
(5) Russell Fork River
(6) Dismal River

Wise County
(7) Middle Fork Powell River
(8) Clear Creek
(9) Pound River/ N. Fk. Pound River

Lee County
(10) N. Fk. Powell River
(11) Martins Creek

Scott County
(12) Stock Creek
(13) Straight Fork
(14) Big Stony Creek
(15) Bark Camp Lake
(16) Little Stony Creek

Russell County
(17) Big Cedar Creek
(18) Laurel Bed Lake

Washington County
(19) Big Brumley Creek
(20) Big Tumbling Creek
(21) Whitetop Laurel
(22) Straight Branch
(23) Beartree Lake
(24) Tennessee Laurel
(25) Valley Creek
(26) Green Cove Creek

Tazewell County
(27) Little Tumbling Creek
(28) Laurel Creek
(29) Roaring Fork
(30) Maiden Spring Creek
(31) Lake Witten
(32) Lincolnshire Lake
(33) Cove Creek

Smyth County
(34) Middle Fk. Holston River (Upper)
(35) Middle Fk. Holston River (Marion)
(36) Staley Creek
(37) Cressy Creek
(38) Dickey Creek
(39) Comers Creek
(40) Hurricane Creek
(41) S. Fk. Holston River
(42) Little Laurel Creek

VIRGINIA
Department of Game & Inland Fisheries

Backyard Wild

story and photos by Marlene A. Condon

Accepting Predators

Wildlife lovers would rather not witness the death of animals in their yards, and so they often hate having such predators as hawks and snakes around. However, we must accept predators as a natural and *necessary* part of our environment. Without predation, the earth would quickly be overcrowded, and our beloved wildlife would then die horribly from starvation and disease.

One example should make this clear using the Carolina wren, a common bird species of southern yards. One pair typically nests three times a year, each time producing an average of four eggs. Assuming that all of the eggs hatch and no bird ever dies, we would have 14 Carolina wrens at the end of the first year, or seven times as many birds as we started off with. Thus each generation of wrens is seven times greater than the previous generation, and this allows us to calculate how many birds there would be after any given number of years.

At the end of year one there was 2 X 7 or 14 birds. At the end of year two there would be 2 X 7 X 7 or 98 birds, and so on. In ten years, the population of Carolina wrens in your yard would increase from two birds to *565 million*.

If birds died of old age after a single mating, a pair of Carolina wrens would only have to produce two young to maintain the same population number. Instead they turn out at least seven times as many chicks per breeding season because Mother Nature has taken predation (and other factors) into account.

Although some people think that cats and dogs should also be considered natural predators of our wildlife, pets and feral cats are so numerous that these animals help to upset the "balance" that exists between predator and prey populations. Pets should not roam freely.

We may fool ourselves into thinking that pets and feral cats are a vital component of our environment just as our native predators are, but to quote an old television commercial, "It is not nice to fool Mother Nature." □

A circular pile of feathers is a clue that a bird-eating hawk caught itself a meal.

During warm weather, eastern screech owls hunt for prey at night and rest by day on a branch.

Raccoons are scavengers that will eat practically anything they find.

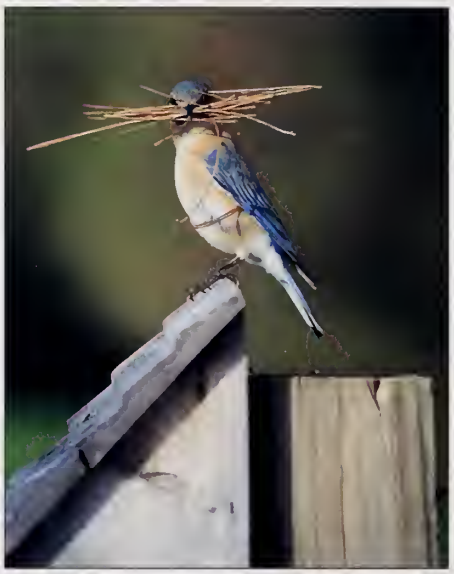
Photo Tips

by Lynda Richardson

"Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" 2001 Contest Winners

Congratulations to all who entered this year's "Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" photography contest! We had the largest number of entries ever; 315 slides and prints were submitted by 50 people! So sit back, and enjoy the winning entries!

The *first place* winner for "Birds of a Feather" goes to Peggy Bruce, of Culpeper, Virginia, for her delightful image of a female bluebird with pine tags. Peggy writes that ever since she and her husband placed the first nest box in their yard five years ago, they have been "hooked" with the enjoyment of bluebirds. Peggy shot this image on print film

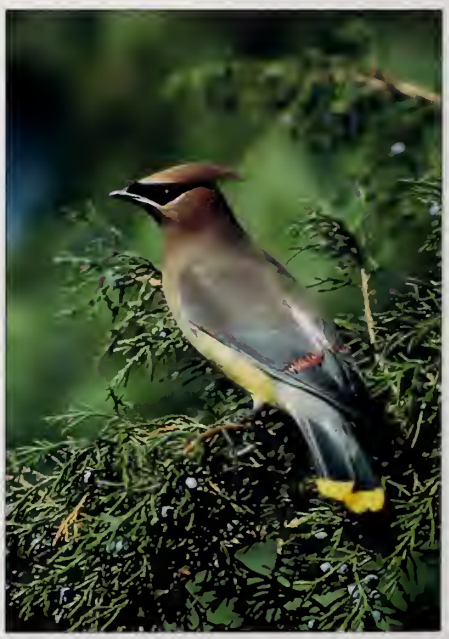


with a Minolta Maxxum 300si camera and a 70-300mm lense.

Our *second place* winner is Randy Streufert of Mason Neck, Virginia for his unusual image of a male cardinal taking a shower in the water mister in his backyard. Randy used a Nikon F100F camera with a 600mm, f4.0 lens. The film used was Fuji Provia 100 slide film.

Third place goes to Charles W. Spalding, of Williamsburg, Virginia, for his beautiful image of a white egret flying along the Powhatan Watershed at Ford's Colony in James City County. Charles shot this photograph with a Nikon F100 camera

Top: First Place, "Birds of a Feather," by Peggy Bruce, Culpeper.
Above: Second Place, "Birds of a Feather," by Randy Streufert, Mason Neck.



Honorable Mention, "Birds of a Feather," by Linda Lee Wilkes, Gladstone.

Third Place, "Birds of a Feather," by Charles W. Spalding, Williamsburg.

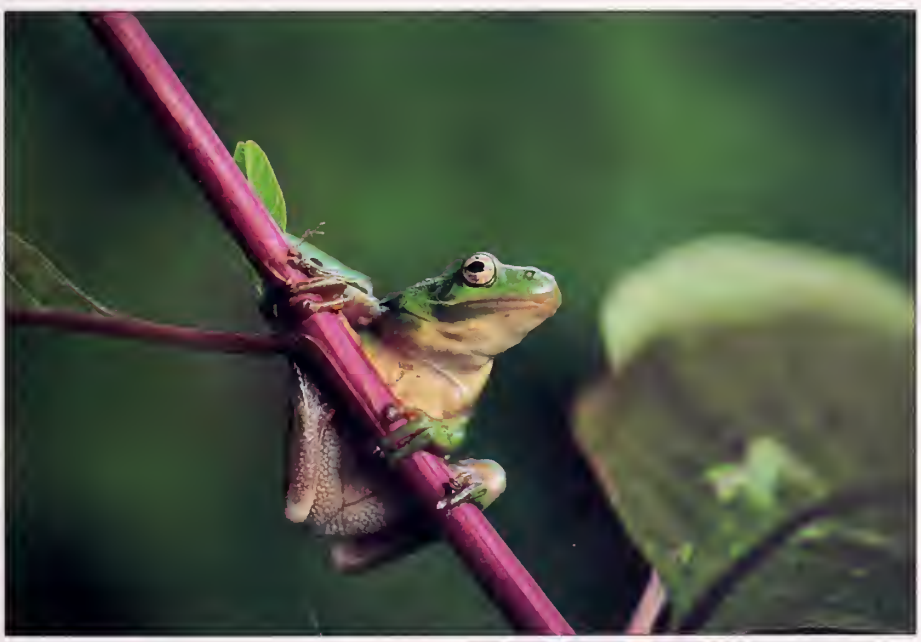
Third Place, "Cold and Clammy," by Michael Smailes, Ruckersville.

using his new 600mm, f4.0 AFS lens on a Bogen 3021 tripod with a Wimberly Head. His film of choice was Kodak Supra 400 print film.

Honorable mention goes to Linda Lee Wilkes, of Gladstone, Virginia, for her portrait of a cedar waxwing. Linda used a Pentax K-1000 camera with a Tokina 400mm lens and tripod. This image was shot with Kodak Elitechrome slide film from a portable blind at her farm in Buckingham County.

The *first place* winner in "Cold and Clammy Critters" is Michael Smailes, of Ruckersville, Virginia, for his photograph of a Grape Leaf Skeletonizer Moth on milkweed. This beautiful image was taken in the Shenandoah National Park with a Nikon N80 camera and a Nikon

First Place, "Cold and Clammy," by Michael Smailes, Ruckersville.



Second Place, "Cold and Clammy," by Randy Streufert, Mason Neck.

Honorable Mention, "Cold and Clammy," by Mark VanDyke, Cedar Bluff.

70-180 macro lens on a Gitzo tripod using a Bogen ballhead and a cable release.

Our *second place* winner, again, is Randy Streufert for his image of a green tree frog on a pokeweed plant near the edge of Jacob's Creek, on Mason Neck in southern Fairfax County. Using a Nikon F5 camera with a Nikon 70-180 macro lens, Randy shot this colorful image using Fuji Velvia slide film exposing the film at 1/60th of a second at f16.

Third place also goes to Michael Smailes for his image of a dew covered differential grasshopper on thistle. Michael shot this image in the Shenandoah National Park using the same set up he had for the first place winner.

An *honorable mention* is awarded to Mark VanDyke, of Cedar Bluff, Virginia, for his humorous picture of a bluegill checking out a diver in South Houston Lake, in Abingdon, Virginia. This image was taken about 15 feet underwater using a Kodak Underwater Disposable camera!

For the second year running, "Fantastic Flowers," was a real hit with nearly double the entries of the other two categories. Our *first place* winner is Douglas J. Norton, of Arlington, Virginia, for his image of round-lobed hepatica photographed in the George Washington National Forest. Douglas notes that it is difficult to capture the violet color of this flower as exposure to the sun causes it to quickly fade. Douglas used an Olympus OM-2 camera, a 55mm lens, and shot Kodak 100 speed print film.

First Place, "Fantastic Flowers," by Douglas J. Norton, Arlington.

Second place is awarded to Debbie Miller, of Staunton, Virginia, for her texture filled picture taken at the edge of a farmer's field planted with barley. Debbie shot this image using print film, a Canon Rebel 2000 camera, and a 28-80mm Tamron lens.

Mundy Hackett, of Richmond, Virginia, is our *third place* winner. Mundy's image of spring blooming redbud against a backdrop of dogwood was taken with a Canon EOS 3 camera using a Sigma 24mm f2.8 lens, and Fuji professional slide film.

Honorable mention goes to Daniel L. Goerlich, of Scottsburg, Virginia, for his image of a sunflower and morning glories. Dan used his mother's Honeywell Pentax Spotmatic camera with an old screw mount Meyer-Optik Gorlitz 1:1.9/58 lens. "Although it is now well over 30 years old, the camera is still capable of taking excellent images," Dan mentions in his delivery memo.

Kodak Professional sponsored the first and second place prizes; first place being a 20-roll brick of Kodak VS 100-36 exposure professional slide film, and second place being 10 rolls of Kodak VS100-36 professional slide film.

Honorable Mention, "Fantastic Flowers," by Daniel L. Goerlich, Scottsburg.

Richmond Camera sponsored the third place prizes; a $50 certificate for photofinishing at any of their locations around the state.

Virginia Wildlife magazine contributed the honorable mention prize of a *Virginia Wildlife* magazine hat.

Again, congratulations to all of those who participated in this year's contest! The 2001 "Virginia's Fabulous Fauna" contest was, by far, the best year yet with the most entries and the stiffest competition! If you didn't place in this years contest, please don't give up! You'll have another chance to enter the up-coming contest to be announced on the back cover of the March issue of *Virginia Wildlife* magazine. See you next year! □

Second Place, "Fantastic Flowers," by Debbie Miller, Staunton.

Third Place, "Fantastic Flowers," by Mundy Hackett, Richmond.

RECIPES

by Joan Cone

Small Trout Are Tasty

Recently a friend called and mentioned that she had tried flycasting for the first time and took to it with great enthusiasm. "So now I have a nice catch of small trout, 8 to 9 inches long," she said. "How should I cook them?"

I told her that small trout are delicious and must be prepared quickly and not over-cooked. My suggestion was to fry them, as they were too small to broil or bake and gave her the following recipe over the phone. She called later and said the trout were a success and enjoyed by all.

Menu

Cracker Brittle
Crusty Small Trout
Dijon Roasted Potatoes
Spinach 'N Orange Salad
Apricot Banana Bread

Cracker Brittle

1 cup biscuit baking mix
½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese
¼ cup butter or margarine, softened
2 tablespoons boiling water
1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
Sesame, poppy or caraway seed

Grease a 12-inch microwave-proof plate with vegetable cooking spray. Mix all ingredients except seed until soft dough forms. Press dough with floured hands into 9-inch circle on plate. Sprinkle with seed. Microwave uncovered on HIGH 3½ minutes; rotate plate a half turn. Microwave uncovered on HIGH until dough looks dry and flaky, 3 to 4 minutes longer. Immediately remove brittle from plate with metal spatula and tear into 2 to 3-inch pieces. Makes about 20 pieces of brittle.

Crusty Small Trout

6 to 8 small trout
1 egg, beaten
2 tablespoons milk
Salt and pepper to taste
½ cup cornmeal
½ cup flour
Vegetable oil for frying
Lemon wedges

Thaw fish, if frozen, and dry. Combine egg, milk, salt, and pepper. Mix cornmeal and flour together. Dip fish into egg mixture and roll in cornmeal mixture. Place a single layer of fish in hot oil in a large, heavy skillet or electric frypan. Fry at moderate heat, 350°F., approximately 4 to 5 minutes. Turn carefully and cook 4 to 5 minutes longer or until brown and fish flakes easily when tested with a fork. Drain on absorbent paper and serve with lemon wedges.

Dijon Roasted Potatoes

½ cup Dijon or honey Dijon mustard
½ cup olive oil
3 pounds baking potatoes, cut into 1½-inch cubes
2 medium onions, sliced
Chopped fresh parsley

In a small bowl, combine mustard and oil. In a large bowl, combine potatoes, onions, and mustard mixture; toss to coat well. Spread in a 15½ x 10½ x 1-inch baking pan. Bake in a preheated 400° F., oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until potatoes are tender and crispy, stirring once. Garnish with parsley.

Spinach 'N Orange Salad

1 pkg. (10 ounces) fresh spinach, rinsed, drained, torn in bite-size pieces
2 oranges, peeled, cut in quarter-cartwheel slices
¼ pound mushrooms, sliced
Orange Dressing
2 hard-cooked eggs, sliced

In large bowl, combine spinach, orange slices and mushrooms. Cover and chill. To serve, pour Orange Dressing over salad mixture and toss well. Garnish with sliced eggs. Serves 4 to 5.

Orange Dressing

Grated peel of ½ orange
½ cup fresh squeezed orange juice
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
2 teaspoons sugar
½ teaspoon chili powder
½ teaspoon dried thyme
Salt to taste

In jar with lid, combine all ingredients; chill. Shake well before serving. Makes about ⅔ cup.

Apricot Banana Bread

⅓ cup butter or margarine
⅔ cup sugar
¾ teaspoon lemon extract
2 eggs
1¼ cups mashed banana
1¾ cups flour
2¼ teaspoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
½ cup coarsely chopped nuts
¼ cup finely chopped apricots

Preheat oven to 350° F. Cream butter and sugar; add lemon extract. Add eggs, one at a time and beat mixture until fluffy. Add mashed banana. Combine flour, baking powder and salt and add to banana mixture. Fold in nuts and apricots. Pour into a greased 9 x 5 x 3-inch loaf pan. Bake in a 350° F., oven for 1 hour or until bread tests done. Makes 16 slices. □

Naturally Wild

story and illustration
by Spike Knuth

Brown Trout
Salmo trutta

It's hard to imagine, but the brown trout was regarded as a trash fish when first introduced into United States waters back in 1883. A New York hatchery received some 80,000 eggs from Germany and, along with subsequent shipments, the "salmon trout" began to expand its range. Today it inhabits waters from the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico, to Montana, the Pacific Coast states, to Wisconsin and Michigan, several Canadian provinces, to Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Delaware, New Jersey, and to New England.

Originally the brown trout inhabited mainly Europe, the British Isles, and western Asia. It was known as the German brown trout, English brown trout, European trout, Von Behr trout, and Loch Leven trout. Today, because of stocking, it has the widest range of any member of the salmonid family. There are excellent populations of the brown trout in Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, Africa, and Tasmania.

It was found to be more tolerant of warmer water than the native brookie. As some streams were rendered uninhabitable to the brook trout, browns were stocked to fill the void. Department biologists say that the longer life span naturally increases the potential size of the brown trout despite annual growth rings being similar to the brook trout. Small mountain streams that rarely have brook trout over 12 inches will often produce brown trout over 20 inches.

When spawning, the female fans out up to four different nests, called redds, within a 20–30 foot area. She lays anywhere from 600 to 6,000 large, non-adhesive eggs, which will, under natural conditions, hatch by spring. In lakes, they spawn in tributary streams or shallow shoal waters. Young that are spawned in lake tributaries may remain there up to three years.

The brown trout feeds on aquatic and terrestrial insects, mollusks, small fish, crayfish, salamanders, frogs, even small mammals, or birds. Fish and crayfish are the main diet of the larger browns, while those 12 inches and under probably rely more on invertebrates.

The colors of the brown trout vary widely. Natural, wild browns are olive-brown or bronze-green on the back, fading to lighter on the sides, then a brilliant yellow gold on their underbody, with yellowish-green, unspotted fins. Their bodies have numerous black or dark brown spots. Below the lateral line, the sides are sprinkled with red spots, encircled by light bluish rings. Hatchery-reared trout tend to be brown above and silvery-sided, with a light, yellowish underbody, and black and red spots surrounded by a lighter "halo."

Over the years, the brown trout has overcome its "not-much-better-than-carp" image and has become one of our most popular sporting fish. Among the best streams and rivers for browns are the Smith River below Philpott Reservoir, Little River, Mossy Creek, Potts Creek, Back Creek, Jackson River, Lake Moomaw, and a wide array of others. □

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